

FALKLAND ISLANDS

TRN/AVI/6#6

VOL 1 Dec 1974

SECRETARIAT

AIRODROME — EXPLOSIVES

ARCHIVE

~~IDENTICAL~~

~~CS 10. (TETAN)~~

File Opened. 28 - 2 - 75

Closed

CS	-	11/3
CS	(58)	/
CS	2	4
CS	3	

NOTE

26
3

On Wednesday, 18 December, 1974 I saw OCRM who told me he had contacted Corlett about a visit to the air field site to dispose of any suspected explosive devices. Corlett wanted to defer the visit because he was not ready but OCRM insisted on his chap going up to the air field with Johnston's representative today (Wednesday 18th)

2. OCRM has also offered to Corlett that his men do a complete traverse of the air field site and if necessary he will station a man out at Cape Pembroke on call for the contractors as and when required.
3. OCRM does not consider that one mine sweeper or metal detecting device would suffice - although at one time he thought it would. He has, however, sent a signal to his C in C asking for this bit of apparatus and putting the C in C in the picture generally so that support staff might be made available on request.
4. Later on I saw Maidman who said that he was still concerned over three matters: the explosive devices; the re-routing of the access road to avoid Hooker's Point strip: and re-routing the access road because the one shown on the plan (not near the temporary strip) had now been dug up for peat.
5. As regards the explosive devices I reminded him that he was going to let me know on Monday whether a clearance certificate was required or not. I eventually pinned him down to the statement that he thought it would be. In anticipation of this, action had already been taken as recorded on this file.
6. As regards the deviation to avoid the temporary strip, Maidman told me that he has sent a drawing of a deviation to his Head Office for consideration. He has thoroughly surveyed this new route and it will probably be acceptable. It is about 1500 metres in length but the total road will be shorter than the old one. As the work on the road is not scheduled on the programme to start until about the middle of next year there should be no undue delay arising from this factor as such. A delay could arise if the Contractor was denied access to the site, and this has been remedied by a temporary deviation round the west end of Hooker's Point strip which has been approved by Bloomer Reeve and which will take about a week to prepare.

CS

*No regards x/ I have put WM in touch w. SPW + RSC
to ascertain status of land to be owned (see also 14).*

RESTRICTED

PRIORITY
FROM
TO
INFO

181856Z DEC
NP 8901
CINCFLEET
RM POOLE
CTC RM

R E S T R I C T E D. DIG KGQ.

GOVERNOR HAS REQUESTED ME TO SIGN CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR AREA OF NEW AIRFIELD WHICH WAS USED AS LIVE FIRING RANGE BY ROYAL MARINES UNTIL ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY REQUIRE FULL CLEARANCE PRIOR TO PROCEEDING WITH BUILDING AND DELAY WILL COST F.I. GOVT CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL PENALTY. ALTHOUGH CAN GIVE OPINION THAT LARGE AREA IS PROBABLY SAFE DO NOT BELIEVE QUALIFIED TO SIGN BECAUSE DO NOT HAVE EQUIPMENT NOR KNOW WHAT WAS FIRED ONRANGE. AGREED TO HELP IDENTIFY AND DESTROY WHAT FOUND AND RENDER EVERY ASSISTANCE IN DOING WHATE CLEARANCE POSSIBLE. GOVERNOR HAS REQUESTED WE OBTAIN MINE DETECTING EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST IN TASK AS MATTER OF URGENCY. COULD YOU ADVISE.

COPY TO CHIEF SECRETARY

COMCEN

18 DEC 1974

NP 8901

RESTRICTED

Engineer for the Works:

Please reply to:

Rendel Palmer & Tritton

Consulting & Designing Engineers

Southwark Bridge House

61 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1SA

Tel: 01-928 8999

Cables: Rendels London SE1

Telex: No. 919553

Code: Rendconsult-Ldn

ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. Box 212

Port Stanley

Falkland Islands

19 December 1974

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 4/4-24

FALKLAND ISLANDS AIRPORT

The Hon. the Chief Secretary
Secretariat,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

Clearance Certificate

I refer to my discussions with yourself on 10, 13 and 18 December in connection with munitions found on the site of the Airport.

The Contractor has requested the issue of a "clearance certificate" and it is my opinion that this is a reasonable request.

Notwithstanding that the Contractor and the Officer Commanding Royal Marines are having direct discussions on this matter the contractual implications are such that it is essential that such a certificate be issued within the shortest possible time and I would be pleased if you could arrange for this to be done.

Yours faithfully,
for RENDEL PALMER & TRITTON



W. Maidman
Engineer's Representative

JOHNSTON**CONSTRUCTION LTD****Civil Engineering and Building Contractors**

Registered Office:

Johnston House, Hatchlands Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BG

Telephone: Reigate 42466 (20 Lines)

Cables: Johnston, Redhill (Telex)

Telex: London 27641

Your Ref: AIR/13/4
Vol. 2From: P.O. Box 136,
Stanley.

22nd December, 1974

A.J.P. Monk, Esq.,
Chief Secretary,
The Secretariat,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

Re: Falkland Islands Airport

We thank you for your letter of the 17th December which we received on the 19th December.

As you are aware, we have on two occasions found military explosive devices on the airport site and, as such matters are beyond our knowledge and ability, we have called upon the Royal Marine experts and notified the Consulting Engineer of the occurrence.

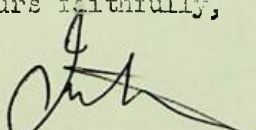
During week-ending 15th December, we had several discussions with the Royal Marines in which we sought their advice regarding these devices. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to walk the area of the site but, due to other commitments, the Marines were unable to provide sufficient men to carry out this operation. We, therefore, offered to provide whatever men they required to work under their direction.

On the 17th December we showed the Marines the area in which we would be working and on the 19th December they requested us to provide six men to walk the area on the 20th December, and this was duly arranged and carried out.

We do not, therefore, understand the remarks in the last paragraph of your letter.

As a period of some 8 weeks has elapsed since we first reported finding an explosive device, and in the absence of any instructions from the Secretariat, the Marines, or the Consulting Engineer, we are not aware of any reason why our works cannot proceed.

Yours faithfully,


J. W. Corlett, B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E.
Project Manager

MVB

38

2nd January,

75

REF. AIR/13/4

Major S. Cook,
Royal Marines,
Naval Party 8901,
Stanley.

Dear Major Cook,

Falkland Islands Airport

We have discussed several times the question of the clearance certificate for the airport I understand the difficulties involved but think it would be a good thing if you could let Johnstons have even a qualifying certificate as early as possible.

Perhaps the best way to go about this is for you to 'phone Corlett and ask if he is happy with the situation or if he still requires you to make further examination. If he does I suggest that you give him what form of certificate you feel is within your ~~confident capabilities~~ *competence*.

Yours sincerely,

51

A.J.P. Monk. Chief Secretary.

56
(7)
RESTRICTED

Priority to Stanley

From: FCO

Tel No 15

of 13 Jan

PERMANENT AIRFIELD: UNEXPLODED BOMBS

1. We proposed sending out testing equipment to be operated by Marines but have now been told that contractors are going ahead with work on strength of verbal assurance from OC Detachment that area is clear.
2. Meanwhile Crown Agents have asked us to ensure that site and works area are cleared and engineer's representative provided with certificate.
- x/ 3. Please confirm that work is proceeding and say if clearing certificate is still needed. Cost of providing certificate would be high since MOD now say it will be necessary to send operator with equipment.

Discussed w. Kellie & Aidman.

They advise a short delay in replying until they have sounded out Johnston. In this connection they believe A. King will arrive on 20/1.

Probably, weighing the estimated cost at £/ against the possibility of the expenses of a claim (which could be as high as £2000/day) it may be prudent to have the MOD team here provided the cost was £ then, say, £5000.

Bm

RESTRICTED

60
(9)

COPY OF SIGNALS - SUBJECT AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION

181856Z DEC

FROM: NP 8901

TO: CINCFLEET

INFO: RM POOLE

CTCRM

DIG EGQ

GOVERNOR HAS REQUESTED ME TO SIGN CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR AREA OF NEW AIRFIELD WHICH WAS USED AS LIVE FIRING RANGE BY ROYAL MARINES UNTIL ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY REQUIRE FULL CLEARANCE PRIOR TO PROCEEDING WITH BUILDING AND DELAY WILL COST F.I. GOVT CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL PENALTY. ALTHOUGH CAN GIVE OPINION THAT LARGE AREA IS PROBABLY SAFE DO NOT BELIEVE QUALIFIED TO SIGN BECAUSE DO NOT HAVE EQUIPMENT NOR KNOW WHAT WAS FIRED ON RANGE. AGREED TO HELP IDENTIFY AND DESTROY WHAT FOUND AND RENDER EVERY ASSISTANCE IN DOING WHAT CLEARANCE POSSIBLE. GOVERNOR HAS REQUESTED WE OBTAIN MINE DETECTING EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST IN TASK AS MATTER OF URGENCY. COULD YOU ADVISE.

191826Z DEC

FROM: CINCFLEET

TO: NP 8901

INFO: MODUK NAVY

MODUK ARMY

CTCRM

RM POOLE

HMS ENDURANCE

DIG KGQ/LBC

REFERENCE YOU KGQ 181856Z DEC NOTAL

1. TIMING OF REQUEST FROM GOVERNOR IS DIFFICULT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES HERE. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY APPEAR TO HAVE DONE POOR RECCE AND ASSESSMENT OF SITE DURING PAST YEAR.
 2. WHILE INVESTIGATIONS AS TO MEANS OF HELPING YOU ARE PURSUED REQUEST YOU CHECK ENDURANCE AS TO AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL. CONCEIVABLE SHE CAN ASSIST IN CUTTING TIME AND COSTS.
 3. IF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT NEED TO FLY FROM UK, PCO AND DS 58 (MOD)(N) AGREE COSTS SHOULD BE BORNE BY F.I.G. SUGGEST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ALSO RESPONSIBLE. MOST UNLIKELY ANY ASSISTANCE FROM UK LIKELY BEFORE MID-END JAN 75 AND LIKELY MEANS OF TRAVEL WILL BE WITH NEW NP 8901.
 4. AGREE THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY AND DESTROY ANY MINOR OBJECTS FOUND. ANYTHING THAT YOU SIGN ON COMPLETION SHOULD ONLY STATE THAT YOU HAVE CLEARED TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY, WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS.
 5. REQUEST YOU PROVIDE ALSO ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFO ON THE NEW SITE TO INCLUDE ITS POSSIBLE PREVIOUS USE BY RN SHIPS DURING PAST 70 YEARS.
 6. MOD(ARMY) (ENGINEER IN CHIEFS DEPT) INVESTIGATING ON OUR BEHALF.
 7. PLEASE COPY ALL ADDRESSEES IN YOUR REPLY.
-

031825Z JAN

FROM: NP 8901

TO: CINCFLEET

INFO: ENDURANCE

MODUK NAVY

MODUK ARMY

CTCRM

RM POOLE

DIG KGQ/LBC

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

REF YOU 191626Z DEC

NO SUITABLE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE. SWEEP OF AREA DONE CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY PROCEEDING PROGRAMME AT PRESENT. NO CERTIFICATE GIVEN.
FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED.

RESTRICTED

Engineer for the Works:

Rendel Palmer & Tritton

Consulting & Designing Engineers

Southwark Bridge House

61 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1SA

Tel: 01-928 8999

Cables: Rendels London SE1

Telex: No. 919553

Code: Rendconsult-Ldn

Please reply to:

ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. Box 212

Port Stanley

Falkland Islands

14 January 1975

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 1/8-12

FALKLAND ISLANDS AIRPORT

The Hon. the Chief Secretary,
Secretariat,
Stanley.

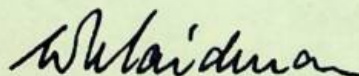
Dear Sir,

Clearance Certificate

Many thanks for the "Certificate of Range Clearance" which was prepared by the Officer Commanding Royal Marines and forwarded by yourself to this office with a compliment slip.

The Contractor has had sight of the certificate and will be given a copy of it as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
for RENDEL PALMER & TRITTON



W. Maidman
Engineer's Representative

RESTRICTED

From FCO

To Priority Stanley

Tel No 25 of 20 Jan

PERMANENT AIRFIELD

UNEXPLODED BOMBS

My Tel 15

1. Crown Agents and Consultants consider it essential proper investigation is made to support visual search. They cite risks to life and machinery, and possibility of contractors refusing to continue work with consequential risk of substantial claim.

2. Army team, which is only one capable of operation, has programme of priority one tasks (ie where there is potential threat to human life) up to end of 1975. If we are to jump queue we shall have to advance strong arguments, political and commercial.

3. If entire airfield site is to be cleared, team of 10 men would need to work one week before issuing certificate. If only part of area was used for range it may be possible to reduce size of team. Please telegraph following: -

ALFA. Size of Danger area of range, as it affects site:

BRAVO. What weapons have been fired:

CHARLIE. Over what period of years.

4. Costs of operation would include travel and freight of equipment, and cover for indemnity for team on lines of South Georgia operation.

5. If you agree we shall need your authority to request assistance of MOD.

Reply at (71)

Sent P.S.

~~71~~
12

RESTRICTED

232000Z

From Falklands
Tel No 22 of 23 Jan

Priority to FCO DESKBY 241000Z

Your Tel Nos 15 and 25 ⁻⁶⁸

PERMANENT AIRFIELD: UNEXPLODED BOMBS.

1. Consultations have been taking place between the Consultants, Contractors and OCRM since your Telegram 15.
2. King, Director of Johnstons, saw me yesterday 22 January, and said he thought expert investigation essential, although he believes risk small. He assured me of his intention to continue with work meanwhile.
3. The site covers 500 acres, mostly peaty soil, and about 10 per cent surface rock: approximately 100 acres have already been worked over, so risk in this 100 acres is probably slight. Likelihood is therefore that team could examine 150 acres quickly, but whole site must be examined as all of it may be required for excavation or dumping.
4. No record of weapons fired or over what period.
5. If accident occurred stoppage could cost up to £3,000 per day, and expose Government to criticism even though responsibility lies probably with Consultants or Contractors for not carrying out thorough initial survey. In this case site must be investigated and you have my authority for this.
6. If costs of investigation are sufficiently important to be weighed against need, would MOD consider five men for two weeks, and also possibly utilising space on aircraft bringing out new NP 8901?

MONK

~~73~~
(13)
RESTRICTED

From FCO

To Priority BA

Tel No 44 of 28 Jan
and Stanley

PERMANENT AIRFIELD

1. It has been revealed recently that site was previously used by Marine Detachment as firing range. Because of risks to life and machinery, contractors and consultants insist full clearance certificate essential. Contractors are continuing work at present but if they stopped because of risk their claims could run at £3,000 per day.

2. With Governor's authority we are working on arrangements with MOD for Army Team of experts to sweep site. In hope that 8 men will leave UK by civil flight 6 Feb please reserve places on LADE flight to Stanley 10 February. Team will need help with travel cards.

CONFIDENTIAL UKEYES BRAVO

From BA (Buenos Aires)

to Priority MODUK Army Tel No 311400 of 31 Jan

Info 33 ENGREGT EOD, SBC LONDON, UKLF, RSME, SE DIST 49 EOD SQN RE

Records Brighton, Stanley

- ~~80~~
21
1. Visas not needed but even British passport holders require travel cards in practice for journeys to Stanley. Full details given to SBCIK SBC in our NA/BA/1/8 dated 25 June 1974 SAAS. If men travel on Brit Cal BR 661 arriving 21 February travel cards must have been issued prior to arrival if men to depart BA 22 or 23 February. We could act vide para sic of our letter if all conditions completely fulfilled. Otherwise men must arrive earlier. Please signal course decided.
 2. Travel card for Capt Warr can be issued in Falkland Islands.
 3. Bookings heavy on weekly flights to Stanley but have made provisional bookings for 23 Feb which will be held until 14 Feb.
 4. Possible that team could travel by Argentine Air Force from BA to Comodoro on Sunday 23 Feb on plane which goes to Stanley. Suggest

AIRPORT
FILE
COPY.

75A

3rd February

75

Dear Sir,

This is to advise you that Captain A R Warr RE will be arriving at the week-end to conduct a reconnaissance of the airfield site and make a professional assessment of the situation. Please arrange with Mr Corlette for ever assistance to be given to Captain Warr to enable him to traverse the site and undertake any other inspections he wishes to make.

Yours faithfully,



(D R Morrison)
for CHIEF SECRETARY

Engineer's Representative
Rendel Palmer and Tritton
Consulting and Designing Engineers
Box 212
Stanley

CPEJ

RESTRICTED

Immediate to FCO from Falklands
Telegram No. 47 of 6th February

~~82~~
23

NEW AIRFIELD

Your tels 41 and 58. You may sign indemnity on behalf of FIG for Captain Warr and third party.

2. Contractors insurance covers actual construction (clause 21 of Contract) and their employees (clause 24) also third party insurance (clause 23) in joint name of client and contractor but this excludes injury and damage arising from unknown explosive devices.

3. Captain Warr is due to arrive here on Friday 7th February and is unlikely to be able to begin reconnaissance until Monday.

~~Handwritten signature~~
6/2

4A

RESTRICTED

Immediate to Stanley
Tel No 58 of 6 Feb
From FCO
Our Tel 41

Please send confirmation immediately. Presumably Capt Warr will start work today. Please also advise us on extent of contractors' cover, and whether it will be necessary for us to obtain third party cover for you and, if so, at what level.

CONFIDENTIAL

From FCO

To Priority Stanley

Tel No 49 of 4 Feb

Your Tel No 41.

Herewith repeat of MODUK ARMY 291340Z

From Moduk Army to 33 Engregt Eod Britdefat BA Britdefat Montevideo
SBC London Info UKLF Governor Falklands NP 8901 Governor please pass

UK EYES BRAVO DIG KNT

ASSISTANCE TO FALKLAND ISLANDS: WARNING ORDER

1. There may be a requirement to provide EOD assistance to the Falklands to clear the site of new airfield, part of which was previously used by Royal Marines Range.

2. 33 Engregt are to nominate and warn the following for this task:

Alfa. Capt A R Warr (Royal Engineers) for a reconnaissance in early Feb.

Bravo. A detachment of eight men to carry out the clearance of the site. Actual strength and composition of this Detachment will depend on the initial reconnaissance report received from Warr.

3. Movement. Capt Warr is to travel with a RM Detachment on RAF FLT 6388 to Montevideo and in HMS Endurance from Montevideo to the Falklands. He is to carry up to 100 lbs of accompanied excess baggage. SBC London is to issue call forward instructions. His itinerary is as follows:-

Alfa. Dep B BZN 010835Z Feb Arr Dakar 011700

Bravo. Dep Dakar 020900 Feb Arr Recife 021505

Charlie. Dep Recife 030900 Feb arr Montevideo 031630

He is returning to UK by civil air.

4. The detachment deploying to Falklands are to be in possession of all medical and vaccination certificates in accordance with DCLARMY. Eight men are to be ~~ETM~~ from 13 Feb 1975 and will travel by civil air to BA. Authority for Civil Air movement for the Detachment both ways and Capt Warr return only is A/120GEN/6124/CMOVF6 Dated 29 Jan 1975. 33 Engregt are to submit F MAV 562's to SBC London for Capt Warr now and for Detachment. When their movement is authorised they are to be endorsed in red "cost recoverable from FCO through MODF1N"

5. They are to travel in civilian clothes and be in possession of valid passports and MOD Form 90. BRITDEFAT BA asked to advise on visa clearance for Capt Warr's return and for the Detachments move both ways. He is also asked to advise on the availability of seats on weekly flights to Stanley on 16 and 23 Feb 1975.

6. All extra costs of this assistance are to be recovered from the FCO.

7. MOD ENGRI will issue the reconnaissance officer and the main Detachment with short directives. An interim report will be required from Capt Warr by signal to arrive in MODUK ARMY using DIG LBC/KFW by 101200Z February 1975.

CONFIDENTIAL

2.

8. Final authority for deployment and tour lengths will be issued in due course by MODASD 2. If this authority is issued, retention rights of quarters are granted where applicable.

9. NP 8901 are asked to organise accommodation and local support for the team.

RESTRICTED

From FCO 291015Z

To Port Stanley

Telegram No. 36 of 29th January
info Buenos Aires.

My telegram No. 44 to Buenos Aires.

PERMANENT AIRFIELD

1. MOD now advise it would be preferable just to send one officer out to conduct reconnaissance of site and make a professional assessment of requirements for job. We have agreed.
2. Captain A R Warr will travel to Stanley with Marine Detachment arriving on Endurance. He will report to you. Please arrange accommodation.
3. Captain Warr will send his assessment to MOD via you. Please advise us then if you wish us to proceed on basis of his recommendation.

C.S.
Capt. Warr's visit was mentioned during
our talk with Capt. Beane yesterday.
Re. arrange accommodation - Preferably Hotel?
[Signature] 30/1

RESTRICTED

From FCO
To Routine Stanley
Tel No 67
of 7 Feb

Your Tel 47

NEW AIRFIELD

Insurance taken for £100,000 third party liability.

Please advise whether contractors consider this adequate,
and confirm that precautions will be taken to remove
Contractors personnel and equipment from immediate area of
search.

~~88~~
27

RENDEL, PALMER & TRITTON



To OCS w/o file

ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE. 75C

P.O. BOX 212,

STANLEY,

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 28

REF: 971/1/8-18

7th February 1975

The Secretariat,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

For the attention of The Chief Secretary

Dear Sir,

FALKLAND ISLANDS AIRPORT

Captain A. R. Warr R.E. - SITE RECONNAISSANCE

75A Thank you for your letter dated 3rd February 1975 advising me of the arrival of Captain A. R. Warr to conduct a reconnaissance of the airfield site. I have shown Mr. Corlett your letter and am assured that every assistance will be given to Captain Warr to enable him to traverse the site and undertake any other inspections he wishes to make.

Yours faithfully,
for RENDEL PALMER & TRITTON

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. G. Ashfield".

B. G. Ashfield
ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

c.c. Johnston Construction Ltd.

RESTRICTED 091630Z

Immediate to FCO from Falklands DESKEY 103000Z

Telegram No. 54 of 9th February

NEW AIRFIELD

From Captain Warr for MODUK Army and HQ 33 Engr Regt (EOD)

reference HQ EOD/AFW begins -

HQ Engineer in Chief (A) letter A/BR/5228 (Engr 1) dated 31st January 1975.

Reconnaissance carried out over period 7th February 1975 - 8th February 1975.

Approximately one per cent of 500 acres searched using Forster 4015 equipment.

Finds sixtyfive six inch solid shot and one 84 mm anti tank practice.

All finds located in an area of one acre. No finds in remaining area.

Recommend party consisting two NCO and four sappers total six emplane

for Falkland Islands soonest. Reconnaissance officer to remain Port

Stanley to brief search party then return UK on next available flight.

Equipment required from UK three Forster 4015 locators plus one already

here total four. All other equipment available locally. Estimated

duration of task two weeks. Accommodation local hotel dates of arrival

required soonest for booking purposes. Transport and fuel supplied by

Falkland Islands Government. Medical Naval Party 8901. Explosives

Naval Party 8901. Repair facilities for EOD equipment nil. Pay

party to carry sufficient funds to last four weeks in sterling and US

dollars. Accommodation prices full board seven pounds sterling per

day. Written report will be submitted on return to U.K. ends.

FCO please pass.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AL

Telephone 01-

95
(30)

W Hedley Esq
DS6
Ministry of Defence
LONDON SW1

Your reference**Our reference** HWF 21/3**Date** 24 January 1975

FALKLAND ISLANDS: EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ON PERMANENT AIRFIELD SITE

1. As I explained to you on the telephone this morning IMG have made a grant (approx £4.2 million) to the Falkland Islands' Government for the construction of a permanent airfield on the Islands. Work started on the airfield in October and the runway is expected to be operational early in 1976.
2. It has been discovered that the Royal Marine detachment stationed at Stanley (NF 8901) had previously been using the site as a firing range. Before construction work started no certificate of clearance had been issued for the range. Understandably the contractors and the consulting engineers are concerned at the thought that explosive devices which might lie under the surface would explode as construction went on, with consequential risk to their employees and their machinery. The Rm commanding officer made a visual search in December, and has issued a non-committal certificate to the effect that "although the sweep of the area was carried out without instruments it is my professional opinion, given without liability of any sort, that the area is clear of any dangerous explosive/projectiles."
3. The Crown Agents (who represent their principals, the Falkland Islands Government, on this project) the contractors, and the consulting engineers, all agree that a certificate of this kind is inadequate. Before speaking to you I had already been in touch with Frank Parrish in DS5 (who had originally passed on to me the news of this problem from Fleet Royal Marines Officer Northwood), and he had made informal soundings with Engineer I and Major Lowells. As a result of these, Mr Parrish said that it seemed likely that a team of ten men would need to work one week at the site before issuing a certificate. After speaking to Major Lowell on 20 January I telegraphed to the Falkland Islands to ask for information which would help you in the MOD to assess the chances of sending out a team. As a result we have received a telegram from the Acting Governor giving his authority for us to make a request to the MOD for assistance.

/4.



- 2 -

4. The Falklands telegram gives the following information:-

"The site covers 500 acres, mostly peaty soil, and about 10 per cent surface rock. Approximately 100 acres have already been worked over so risk in this 100 acres is probably slight. Likelihood is therefore that team could examine 150 acres quickly but whole site must be examined as all of it may be required for excavation or dumping. No record of weapons fired or over what period." / Fleet RM must have information on type of ammunition supplied to the detachment over years.⁷

5. There is a contingency element in our grant for the construction of the airfield, and the Falkland Islands Government would have to draw upon this element in meeting the costs of the operation. You should know that, at a conservative estimate, if work stopped on the site the contractors could make a claim on us for £3,000 per day. The representative of the construction company on the Islands has said that, although he believes the risk is small, he thinks an expert investigation is essential; in the meantime, he has assured the Acting Governor of his intention to continue with the work.

6. As you will understand, there is a strong element of urgency on this matter, and we should be grateful if you would see what could be done to arrange for a team of engineers to go out to the Falkland Islands as soon as possible. Naturally, it would be appreciated if the expenses could be kept down, perhaps by reducing the size of the team, who would spend, say, a fortnight on the site instead of a week. Another saving might be made if the team could be sent on the aircraft which is carrying out the new detachment which is to replace the Marines Platoon currently stationed in Stanley. Their RAF Britannia is due to leave the UK on 1 February (with only 37 men and their equipment on board), for Montevideo. If a team of engineers could travel on this flight they could transit Buenos Aires to Comodoro Rivadavia for the next available flight to Stanley on 10 February. It seems unlikely that HMS Endurance, which is taking Marines onto Stanley, could also accommodate the engineers.

M E Hunt (Miss)
West Indian and Atlantic Dept

Copies to:

M Todd Esq
Engineering Adviser, ODM

I F Stickels Esq
Finance Dept, ODM

Chief Secretary
FALKLAND ISLANDS

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AL

Telephone 01-



E W Hedley Esq
DS6(a)
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Your reference

Our reference HWF 21/3

Date 31 January 1975

FAULKLAND ISLANDS

UNEXPLODED DEVICES ON SITE OF PERMANENT AIRFIELD

1. Please refer to my letter to you of 24 January. I note that arrangements are going forward for a reconnaissance visit to the Falkland Islands by Captain Warr, and I thank you for your help in getting things going so quickly.
2. I think you know that we have been considering the question of where the financial responsibility for the operation should lie. Our view is that the MOD are responsible for ensuring that land used by the military for a firing range is cleared before it reverts to civilian use. I feel sure Lord Nugent's report has something to say on this, although I am unable to quote him since I do not have a copy of the report here.
3. In order to ensure that the operation gets under way with the minimum of delay, we have been working on arrangements so that (if need be) the Falkland Islands Government will be in a position to pay the costs of the operation and to sign an MOD indemnity (first sentence of para 5 of my letter under reference). We shall be obliged to pursue this further, but we cannot afford to delay action pending a decision on financial responsibility.

M E Hunt (Miss)
West Indian and
Atlantic Department

cc: M Todd Esq
Deputy Engineering Adviser
ODM

Chief Secretary
FAULKLAND ISLANDS ✓

RESTRICTED

From FCO
To Routine Stanley
Tel No 73 of 11 Feb
and to BA

Your Tel No 54 (not to BA)

NEW AIRFIELD

1. We are going ahead on basis Warr recommends. If seats for 6 and space for 200 lbs equipment available on LADE flight, team will arrive 24 Feb.
2. Since MOD nightly rates insufficient for hotel rates quoted please pay all basic hotel costs and charge suspense until agreement reached on who should pay costs of operation.

Amended w. No 59 from Stanley to FCO.

RESTRICTED

111600Z

From Falklands

Tel No 59 of 11 February

Immediate to FCO DESKBY 120900Z

Please pass to MODUK ARMY DESKBY 121000Z

Info 33 ENGREGT DIG LBC/KFW

Your Tel 101901Z

PERMANENT AIRFIELD

1. Do not require detectors 4C.
2. Duration of task two weeks maximum. Impact areas will be cleared by Recce Officer before main party arrives.
3. No additional personal items required.
4. Because of high local cost of subsistence propose FIG pays bills for accommodation and adjust with MOD later if need be.
5. Grateful for date of arrival of main party.

Correct w. No 54 from FCO to Stanley.

36

RESTRICTED

Immediate
From MOD UK ARMY to Governor Falklands
Info 33 ENGREGT
DIG LBC/KFW Attention Capt Warr

FALKLAND ISLANDS AIRFIELD

Your LBC/KFW Feb is ref.

First EOD task

Alfa Task is to complete 100 per cent clearance of assumed impact area until fade out.

Bravo. Remaining search is to be twelve and a half per cent spot check.
Second. Personnel. Alfa. Recce Officer is to remain on site as officer in charge until clearance task is completed. Bravo. One Corporal, one L Cpl and Four Sappers will emplane on a date to be notified. Third, equipment, Alfa. An additional four forster 4015 locators will accompany personnel, one to be held in reserve.

Confirm soonest since 4C detectors. Fourth. Reports. Alfa
Notify Estimated duration of task as detailed in first para.
Bravo. Written report to be forwarded by mail soonest.
Fifth Notify personal items if any required by Recce Officer due to increased length of stay.

✓
Per
12/2

CONFIDENTIAL

111435Z Feb From MODUK ARMY
To Priority 33 ENGREGT EOD and to Priority Britdefat BA
SBC London Info NP 8901 Stanley
Please pass - RSCHME SOEDIST
EOD SQN
Records Brighton
Governor Falklands
DIGHT

Notwithstanding minimize assistance to Falkland Islands
Our KNT 291340Z refers

1. The requirement to provide EOD assistance to the Falklands has been confirmed.
2. 33 Engregt are to nominate and warn two NCOs and six Sappers for an unaccompanied emergency tour of up to three months for this task.

Movement

They are to be in BA by 201000Z Feb F M OV 562S to
SBC London in accordance with reference.
Authority is given for the team to carry up to 200 lbs of excess
accompanied baggage.

4. Identification. In addition to valid passports they are to have two photographs measuring one and a half inches by one inch.
5. Remaining instructions as in reference.
6. For Britdefat BA. Grateful you confirm six flights available on
24 Feb to Stanley.

Yes

(42)

New Bedford

I have discussed recent telegrams with Bedford of RST. He opines that the cards should go ahead as the Engineers and Constructors have asked for a clearance certificate and we have an obligation to pursue the matter as far as possible.

He will cable his London office to confirm his opinion.

My view is that we must pursue until Capt. Warr is satisfied that all feasible investigations have been carried out.

"X"

12/2/75

B.S.

Yes I agree with "X" above and Capt. Warr has reflected instructions from you which lighten up the exercise considerably and compared with his (Capt. Warr's) preliminary thinking in post recent sets are not yet on file

12/2

CS

RESTRICTED

From FCO
To Priority BA
Tel No 71 of 13 Feb
and Routine Stanley

For - [Signature] 17/2

FALKLAND ISLANDS AIRFIELD

1. Reconnaissance Officer recommends team of 2 NCOs and 4 Sappers travel to Falklands soonest. We would like to get them on LADE flight to Stanley on 24 February, and other arrangements depend on this. Please can you confirm soon whether seats and space for equipment will be available.

DCS
Pl. f.a. [Signature] 17/4

File Airfield

B R O A D C A S T N O T I C E

ACCOMMODATION IS REQUIRED FOR FOUR ROYAL ENGINEER
PERSONNEL DUE TO ARRIVE STANLEY 24th FEBRUARY FOR
A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS. ANY HOUSEHOLDERS ABLE TO
ACCOMMODATE ONE OR MORE OF THESE GENTLEMEN ARE ASKED
TO TELEPHONE THE SECRETARIAT TEL. No 170

THE SECRETARIAT
STANLEY.

19th February 1975

~~22A~~
(26)
(43)

RESTRICTED 201830Z

Priority to Buenos Aires from Falklands

Telegram No. 43 of 20th February

and Priority FCO and MODUK

NEW AIRFIELD

FCO telegram No 73 to Stanley copies BA and Moduk telegram of 17th February to BA and others. Please advise if you have arranged flights to arrive Stanley 24th February.

2. Provisional return bookings have been made leaving Stanley 10 March.

FCO please pass

For
20/2

COPY TELEGRAM TO CAPT WARR

C.S.O.

Priority

171755Z FEB

From

MODUK ARMY

To

NP 8901
HEGFI
33 ENG REGT EOD

BRITDEFAT BA

INFO

UKLF
SBC LONDON

UNCLAS. DIG. KFW. ASSISTANCE TO FALKLAND OUR KNT OF
291340Z JAN AND 111435Z FEB REFER ONE: ITINERARY OF
PARTY TO BUENOS AIRES IS AS FOLLOWS (ALL TIMINGS LOCAL)
DEP HEATHROW FLT BA509 191500 FEB
ARR NEW YORK 191750 FEB
DEP NEW YORK FLT PA203 192100 FEB.
ARR BUENOS AIRES 200950 FEB

2. BRITDEFAT BUENOS AIRES IS ASKED TO ARRANGE
RECEPTION ACCOMODATION UNTIL 24 FEB, CLEARANCE AND
MOVE TO PORT STANLEY.

3. GOVERNOR FALKLAND ISLANDS IS ASKED TO ARRANGE AND
PAY FOR ACCOMMODATION IN FALKLANDS.

Like W. HE.

AD
24/2

CONFIDENTIAL

113 (48)

Report by Capt A.R.Warr RE

NEW AIRFIELD FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. On arrival in Port Stanley on Friday 7 Feb 75, I was interviewed by the Chief Secretary Mr A Monk and later by His Excellency the Governor Mr French who enlarged on the reasons for Area Clearance as outlined in Foreign and Commonwealth Office letter HWF 21/3 dated 24 Jan 75.
2. The Consulting Engineers, Rendel, Palmer and Tritton require an official clearance certificate for insurance purposes.
3. In accordance with HQ Engineer in Chief (A) letter A/BR/5228 (Engr 1) dated 31 Jan 75 a reconnaissance of the area was carried out over the period 7 - 8 Feb 75, the results of which are contained in Telegram No 54 of 9 Feb 75 to MODUK and 33 Engr Regt (EOD).
4. During the reconnaissance 69 6" Solid Shot were located in and around the Gun emplacements on Canopus Hill (see trace). These obviously had been left on site when the guns were abandoned. As they are Free from explosive it is considered that they be left in situ, as together with the old Guns they form part of the tourist attraction.

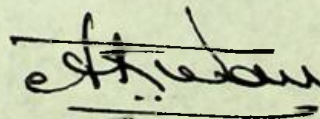
One 84mm A/T Practice was also found in this area, but no evidence could be found to suggest a Target Area. It is therefor assumed that the missile had been carried there by some person and was probably picked up in the known Target Area near Mary Hill some 600 meters to the north.
5. Mary Hill together with another small outcrop of rock to the east, were used as Target Areas by the Royal Marine Detachment, but were discontinued about two years ago. 2" Mortar and 84mm being the weapons used.
6. From questioning Local Officials and members of the general public, no evidence can be obtained that the area was ever used by the RMs other than as stated in para 5 except for Dry Training.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

113a
47

7. Construction of the Airfield is well in hand, the area shaded on the trace has had the top surface removed, drains dug and the strip itself is under construction, the base being laid. The sand for the base is being excavated from a lagoon outside the Airfield boundary. Extensive spot checks have been made in this area using the Forster 4015 Locator with negative results.
8. The Target Areas have been viually searched and cleared by the ILMs. This task was carried out very thoroughly and an instrument search on Monday 10 Feb 75 proved negative. Ten expended CS Gas cartridges were found however on the northern boundary. These were dated 1971.
9. Under normal circumstances it would be recommended that no further action be taken by the MOD, however there are rather strong political overtones and His Excellency the Governor has strongly expressed his wish that the search should be carried out.
10. It is recommended therefor that a 12^{1/2}% search be made of the whole of the area minus that which has been graded and re-surfaced. As the ground is exceptionally metal free, a Forster 4015 search will prove to be the quickest and most efficient method to employ.
11. Continued exploration of the area will be carried out until the arrival of the search party on 24 Feb 75, and it is estimated that the task will be completed within two weeks of that date.


Capt RE

14 February 1975.

Recce Officer. Port Stanley.

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

Routine to BA from Falklands

Telegram No 51 of 4 March

NEW AIRFIELD SEARCH PARTY

Your telegram No 35.

Captain Warr plus six will complete search of new airfield site this week. Return flights have been booked leaving Stanley 10 March. Please arrange to meet Captain Warr in BA and for overnight storage of search equipment weighing total 300 lbs.

FCO please pass

CONFIDENTIAL

54

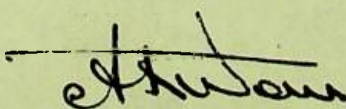
Report by Capt A.R. Warr RE.

NEW AIRFIELD. Falkland Islands.

1. As recommended in my Reconnaissance Report dated 14 Feb 75, further exploration was carried out between that date and the arrival of the Search Party on 24 Feb 75.
2. During this exploration a further 105 x 6" Solid Shot were located near the Gun Emplacements, making a total of 174. These were all examined and found to be free from explosives.
3. The Firing positions used by the Royal Marines were also located mid-way between Canopus Hill and Mary Hill. These were identified by the number of spent cartridges found at distances of 200 and 300 meters from the rock face.
4. On 24 Feb 75 a party of 2 NCO's and 4 Sappers arrived, they were taken to their respective accommodation addresses then given a tour of Port Stanley.
5. Work commenced on 25 Feb 75. A 100% search was carried out of the Target Area (Mary Hill) where a number of 2" Mortar Smoke (expended) were located and 3 x 84mm HEAT (live).
6. A 100% search of the second Target Area, the rocks to the east of Canopus Hill, was then conducted. 1 x 84mm HEAT (live) was located.
7. The 4 x 84mm HEAT were destroyed, the explosives being supplied by the contractor.
8. After 'fade out' was reached on both Target Areas, a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % search was carried out of the remaining area using the Forster 4015 locator. The total finds of the whole area are listed below:-
 - 4 x 84mm HEAT (destroyed by explosive)
 - 174 x 6" Solid Shot
 - 15 x 2" Mortar Smoke (expended)
 - 2 x Mk 4 Trip Flares (expended)
 - 21 x CS Gas Cartridges (expended)
 - 4 x 83 Grenades Smoke (expended)
 - 1 x 84mm Practice
 - 1500 x .303 and 7.62 Empty Cartridge Cases (approx)
9. All items found were on the surface.
10. With the exception of the 174 x 6" Solid Shot which were left on site with the approval of the Chief Secretary, all items were removed from the Area.
11. It is now my belief that the Area contained within the Boundary Line as indicated on the Rendel, Palmer and Tritton drawing No. F1A/C/A1 can be considered free from non-exploded Explosive Ordnance, and a Clearance Certificate to that effect may be issued.

7
March 1975
~~REDACTED~~

CONFIDENTIAL


Capt RE
Officer in Charge
Falkland Island Detachment
(A.R.Warr)

CYPHER/CAT A
RESTRICTED

From Port Stanley
to PRIORITY FCO
Telegram No 99 of 6 March
and Priority RA for BRITDEFAT

pk
✓
7/3

55

PERMANENT AIRFIELD EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

1. FCO Telegram No 95 and MODUK Army Tel DIG/KFW of 17 February to RA and others.
2. Captain Warr and party have explored entire airfield site. 100% search of two target areas and 12¹/₂% search of remainder disclosed 4 x 84 mm HEAT plus 174 six inch solid shot plus 42 expended ordnance items plus one 84 mm practice plus approximately fifteen hundred empty cartridge cases. All items other than solid shot removed or destroyed.
3. Captain Warr gives his informed assessment that site area shown on RPT Drawing FLA/C/A1 can be considered free from non-exploded explosive ordnance and that a clearance certificate may be issued. He will submit a full report to MOD when he arrives back and in normal circumstances MOD would consider this with a view to issuing clearance certificate to DIA.
4. As Contractor requires assurance that area is clear for insurance purposes request you ask MOD agree I may so advise.
5. Captain Warr arriving Heathrow flight AR132 1555Z Wednesday 12 March requests transport for five men and baggage to Chatham plus two rail warrants London to Felixstowe single. Please pass to 33 Engineer Regiment EOD.
6. Grateful BA arrange to meet and accommodate party arriving BA Flight AU113 2130 local time, Monday 10 March

FCO please pass

Engineer for the Works:

Please reply to:

Rendel Palmer & Tritton

Consulting & Designing Engineers

Southwark Bridge House

61 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1SA

Tel: 01-928 8999

Cables: Rendels London SE1

Telex: No. 919553

Code: Rendconsult-Ldn

ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. Box 212

Port Stanley

Falkland Islands

10th March 1975

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 971/1/8-30

CONFIDENTIAL

FALKLAND ISLANDS AIRPORT

The Secretariat,
Stanley.

Attention of the Chief Secretary

Dear Sir,

Report - Munitions on Cape Pembroke

52 I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 4th March 1975
ref AIR/13/4.

With regard to the various points raised in your letter.

1. It is my considered opinion that Johnston Construction Ltd through their Project Manager are contractually correct in requesting information regarding
 - (a) The procedure and programme to be adopted by Captain Warr for the clearance of the airfield site.
 - (b) Full details of any explosive devices that have been found, their location and the proposed action.The consequence of either (a) or (b) may to some extent effect the contractors working programme.
2. It would be a matter for your consideration through the Ministry of Defence whether to divulge the history of the use of Cape Pembroke peninsular by the military to the Contractor as such information may be classified. I can see no contractual reason for Johnston Construction Ltd having such information now that a full scale search of the site has commenced and neared its completion.
3. The correct procedure is for all contractual matters which would include Formal Reports and other such information by others related to the works to be submitted through my office. My letter Ref 971/1/8-26 refers to Captain Warr providing Mr Corlett with this information direct. I considered this course of action as a matter of expedience to take into consideration points 1(a) and 1(b).
4. The requirements under clause 80 of the General Conditions of contract are that the contractor shall treat the contract and

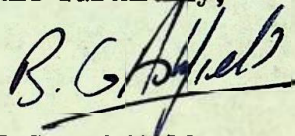
cont...../

everything in connection therewith as private and confidential. I shall require that any such information that you or the Ministry of Defence consider may be divulged to the contractor be treated by the contractor as confidential in accordance with the above clause.

5. Mr Corletts opening paragraph in his letter Ref JC/RE 111 dated 26th February 1975 addressed for my attention states 'We note that Captain A.R. Warr has been carrying out a reconnaissance of the airfield site and has now been joined by further men.'
- "Should make a report" ??*
- I have not discussed this with Mr. Corlett but it is likely that he has postulated that Captain Warr (has) made a report of the results of his preliminary reconnaissance as would be normal professional practice.

I shall be pleased to discuss these matters with you further should you require it and await your considerations.

Yours faithfully,



B.G. Ashfield
ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

59

CYPHER/CAT A

From FCO 131210Z

RESTRICTED

To Priority Port Stanley

Telegram No 109 of 13 March 1975

Your telegram No 99:

PERMANENT AIRFIELD EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

You may inform Contractors as follows:

✓ Scope of Search: The entire airfield site was visually searched. A 100 per cent instrument search was carried out of two target areas with a 12 and one half per cent instrument search of remainder as shown on R^P and T drawings FIA/C/A + B. Items recovered were four 84 mm heat, 174 6-inch solid shot, 42 expended ordnance items, one 84 mm practice round and approximately 1500 empty cartridge cases. ✕

✓ CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE:

It is certified that the area outlined in R^P and T drawings FIA/C/A + B was carefully searched using the Forster 4015 locator, and all explosive items found have been removed and destroyed. ✓

2. Please inform contractor that a formal clearance certificate will be forwarded on return of RE party to UK, and that while MOD are not permitted to say that any area is safe, the area in question has been cleared as far as their techniques and equipment will allow.

CALLAGHAN

Sec (63)

CONFIDENTIAL

60

REF: AIR/13/10

14th March

75

The Engineer's Representative,
Rendel Palmer & Tritton,
P.O. Box 212,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

Report - Munitions on Cape Pembroke 58

I refer to your letter dated 10th March, 1975, Ref. 971/1/8-30, and shall be grateful if you will please inform the Contractor as follows:

Scope of Search: The entire airfield site was visually searched. A 100 per cent instrument search was carried out of two target areas with a 12 and one half per cent instrument search of remainder as shown on R P and T drawings FIA/C/A + B. Items recovered were four 84 mm heat, 174 6-inch solid shot, 42 expended ordnance items, one 84 mm practice round and approximately 1500 empty cartridge cases.

2. You may also issue them with a copy of the attached certificate. 59

3. I shall be grateful if you will please inform the Contractor that a formal Clearance Certificate will be forwarded on return of R.E. party to UK. You will appreciate that MOD may not be permitted to say that the area in question is safe. However, they will confirm that the area has been cleared as far as their techniques and equipment will allow, and I imagine this will be quite adequate for all purposes.

Yours faithfully.

Reply at 62

for Chief Secretary

See 64

ENC

AIR/13/4

CSO file

61

13 March 1975

Lt Col Chave
Commanding Officer
33 Engineer Regt (EOD)
Lodge Hill
Chattenden
nr Rochester
Kent

Captain Warr leaves the Falklands to-day and I feel I must write to tell you what an excellent job he has done. Conditions were far from easy, particularly at the start, but his cheerful "attacking" approach to the task overcame all difficulties.

Captain Warr also fitted in happily within our rather special sort of social life, and he made many friends who are sorry to see him go.

He and the small party who joined him later all acquitted themselves outstandingly well, and we are glad to have had them with us.

N A I French
Governor

DCS

Engineer for the Works:

Please reply to:

62

Rendel Palmer & Tritton

Consulting & Designing Engineers

Southwark Bridge House
61 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1SA

Tel: 01-928 8999

Cables: Rendels London SE1

Telex: No. 919553

Code: Rendconsult-Ldn



ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. Box 212

Port Stanley

Falkland Islands

17th March 1975

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 971/1/8-36

FALKLAND ISLANDS AIRPORT

The Secretariat,
Stanley.

Attention of the Chief Secretary

Dear Sir,

Report - Munitions on Cape Pembroke

60 I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14th March 1975 Ref AIR/13/10 and thank you for your assistance over this matter.

62A I attach a copy of my letter ref 971/1/1-46 to Johnston Construction Ltd summarizing the various points made in your letter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. G. Ashfield', written over a horizontal line.

B. G. Ashfield
ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Enc.

Engineer for the Works:

Please reply to:

62a

Rendel Palmer & Tritton

Consulting & Designing Engineers

Southwark Bridge House

61 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1SA

Tel: 01-928 8999

Cables: Rendels London SE1

Telex: No. 919553

Code: Randconsult-Ldn

ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. Box 212

Port Stanley

Falkland Islands

Your Ref:

14th March 1975

Our Ref: 971/1/1-46

FALKLAND ISLANDS AIRPORT

Johnston Construction Ltd.,
P.O. Box 136,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

Report - Munitions on Cape Pembroke

I refer to your letter dated 26th February 1975 Ref.JC/RE.111. You will appreciate that several of your points cannot be answered due to MOD restriction on classified information however, I am able to report the following from a letter from the Chief Secretary.

Scope of Search: The entire airfield site was visually searched. A 100 per cent instrument search was carried out of two target areas with a 12 and one half per cent instrument search on remaining site as defined on R.P. and T. drawings FIA/C/A + B.

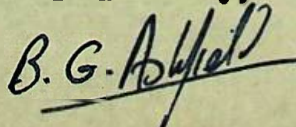
Items Recovered: The following items were recovered;

- I) 4 No. 84 mm heat
- II) 174 No. 6 inch solid shot
- III) 42 No. expended ordnance items
- IV) 1 No. 84 mm practice round
- V) 1500 Empty cartridge cases

Munitions: It is certified that the area outlined in R.P.T. drawings FIA/C/A + B was carefully searched using Forster 4015 locators and that all explosive items found have been removed and destroyed.

Clearance Certificate: A formal clearance certificate will be forwarded on Captain Warr's return to the United Kingdom. However the MOD may not state that the area in question is safe however, they will confirm that the area has been cleared as far as their techniques and equipment will allow.

Yours faithfully,



B.G. Ashfield
ENGINEER'S REPRESENTATIVE

c.c. Chief Secretary



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01-

63

Your reference

A J P Monk Esq
Chief Secretary
FALKLAND ISLANDS

Our reference HWT 21/3

Date 1 April 1975

Dear Arthur

FALKLAND ISLANDS: EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ON PERMANENT AIRFIELD SITE

59 1. In our telegram no 109 we said that we would be forwarding a formal clearance certificate issued by the MOD as a result of the Royal Engineers' work on the airfield site. A copy of this certificate is now enclosed.

2. You should note that on the completion of clearance operations of this kind in the United Kingdom, a clearance certificate is never issued to a private landowner or contractor. We advise, therefore, that the certificate should be retained by the Governor, who may inform the contractors of its contents. I hope this will close this particular chapter of the airfield saga, and that the contractors and consultants will be satisfied with what we have done. We have noted the contents of your letter of 4 March to Mr Ashfield.

Yours ever,
May

M E Hunt (Miss)
West Indian and
Atlantic Department

Enc

b.s.
"X" short. Would you please inform the contractors
on my behalf and ensure that the
certificate is kept in safe custody.
Certificate in DC's safe
16/4
8/4