

C.S.

*Confidential.*

DEF/POL/1#29

1923.  
~~1924~~

No. *26/23* ~~*14/23*~~

*Manager G.L.C.*

SUBJECT.

1923

*20th Decr.*

Previous Paper.

*Reported theft of articles at Great Island.*

MINUTES.

*Letter from Manager G.L.C. 20<sup>th</sup> Decr 1923* (1)

*V.E.*  
*Submitted*  
*M.H.B.*  
*D.C.S.*  
*22 Dec 1923*

*Plan paper to the Chief Constable  
for enquiry and report. It seems to  
me that the best method would be to  
tell Mr. Davis at once of the reported theft  
and to ask him to account for the move-  
ment of the vessel, but the Ch. C. will use his  
discretion  
I cannot accept or approve of the  
statements in paragraph 4 without much  
more definite grounds than exist as far as I know*  
*ttttt 24 Dec.*

Subsequent Paper.

Chief Canotah

Referred

W.H. 18

Oic/ea

24 Dec 1923



Hon Col Secretary  
Sir.

I have interviewed  
Mr. J. Davis, who informs me  
that he has called to Great  
Island only once, since he  
has had his new cutter, and  
that during the time he was  
there, two men from Darwin  
were working on shore.  
Their names are J. Alazia, &  
John Aitkens.

Davis keeps a rough <sup>log</sup> and  
on his return to Stanley next  
I will forward a copy of the  
same

I am Sir

yours obediently  
R/O Sullivan  
Ch Constable

8-1-24

V.E. Submitted

W.H. 13

Oric/sec

10 Jan 1924



A more complete report might I  
think have been furnished at  
an earlier date

A copy of the report by and  
an explanation of the reason for  
visiting Great Island should certainly  
be given. It is now three weeks  
since the letter from the Company was  
written

ttttt 11 Jan. '24

Chief Constable.

Referred

W. L. 13

DiCen

11 Jan 1924

Hon  
 Col Secretary  
 Sir.

With reference to His  
 Excellency's minute of the 11<sup>th</sup> of Jan. I have  
 again seen Mr. J. Davis who informs  
 me that on Oct 23/23 he left Stanley  
 for Speedwell and other Islands, to  
 get eggs also to get sheep, from Tyson  
 Island and Swan Island, and that he  
 called to Great Island to pick up an  
 anchor & Chain he had left there from  
 the Schooner Glean.

This anchor & chain he informs me  
 has been removed from there.  
 He also says that he informed the  
 F.I. Co<sup>m</sup> before leaving Stanley on October  
 23<sup>rd</sup> /23 of his intentions to call at these  
 Islands, they are <sup>belonging</sup> attached to  
 Great Island.

I have also seen a rough log kept by  
 J. Davis which is as follows

Oct 23/23 Left Stanley arrived Fitzroy  
 Oct 29/23 left Fitzroy " Mare Harbour  
 Nov 1<sup>st</sup> /23 left Mare Harbour " Barren Island  
 Nov 2 /23 left Barren Island " Georgie Island  
 Nov 3/23 left Georgie Island - Speedwell Island  
 Nov 3/23 left Speedwell Island - evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Island  
 Nov 4/23 left Great Island " San Carlos 4<sup>th</sup> Nov  
 Nov 12/23 left San Carlos for Tyson Island also  
 Great Island. arrived 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Nov 13/23 to Speedwell Island

It was on his return from San Carlos  
 the 12<sup>th</sup> Nov that he met J. Alazia & J. Atkin  
 at Great Island.

In my first report Davis told me he  
 only called to Great Island once, when I  
 questioned him this morning as to

his former statement he said  
he misunderstood me when he  
said he had called there once,  
as his log showed he had called  
at Great Island to & from San  
Carlos.

I am sir  
your obedient servant  
W. Sullivan  
Ch. Constable

14-1-24

Y.B. Submitted  
G.P. 13  
O.C. Sec  
14 Jan 1924.

This is not satisfactory and it is  
not explained why Davis should  
have made two calls at Great  
Island

Please let enclosed letter go to  
the Manager T.S.C.

ttttt 15 Jan 24

Letter to the Manager T.S.C.  
15 Jan 1924. (2)

Letter from Manager T.S.C.  
7 Feb 1924 (3)

Y.B. Submitted  
G.P. 13  
O.C. Sec  
12 Feb 1924

This is most unsatisfactory  
and I wish the police to take  
up the matter energetically  
Can nothing be found out  
from the crew accompanying  
Davis. Was the vessel painted  
where when with what paint  
? Bell of Lanthorn. Other questions  
will suggest themselves

I understand that the manager  
of Speedwell may be coming in

29th If there is sufficient evidence  
the City will doubtless lay an information  
and the police prosecute

11/11/24 12 Feb. '24

Chief Constable

Referred.

G.H. 18

W.C. 18

13 February 1924

(1)

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CO.LTD.

STANLEY,

20th December 1923

Sir,

I have to inform you that I have this day received information from our Camp Manager to the effect that some persons have visited Great Island, broken into the house and removed practically everything of any value.

2. Mr.Slaughter reports the following articles as missing :-  
4 blankets, 12 tubs, boards & other wood, kettle, cooking pots & pans, plates, knives & forks etc., also paint, oil & nails.

The bell of the "Perthshire" has also been stolen from the Cookhouse.

3. Mr.Slaughter also states that he knows of only one person who has a boat in which to get to Great Island and that is J.Davis, who was seen anchored there. Unless he ran in there under stress of weather it is difficult to understand why he should have been there. I shall be obliged if you will cause the Police to institute enquiries into this occurrence.

4. In conclusion I may add that both Mr.Slaughter & myself view with the greatest concern, J.Davis (a convicted thief), whether guilty in this instance or not, being allowed to coast round the Islands. The opportunity of stealing both materials & livestock, without fear of detection, is great, and we feel that the strictest watch should be kept on his movements.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*W.H.R. Greenham*

Manager.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary, Stanley.



C. 26/23.

15th January,

24

Confidential.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th of December, 1923, reporting the theft of certain articles at Great Island.

2. From enquiries made it appears that J. Davis visited Great Island on the 3rd and 12th of November leaving in each case on the following morning. He states that he visited the island to recover an anchor and chain which had been left there from the Schooner "Gleam". These had however been removed. He further says that on his second visit he met two employees of the Falkland Islands Company, namely J. Alazia and J. Atkins, and left them there. I am to request you to inform me when the theft of the articles was discovered by Mr. Slaughter and also whether they can be identified.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Manager,

Falkland Islands  
Company, Ltd.,

Stanley.

G. R. L. Brown.

for Colonial Secretary.

3

The Falkland Island Company, Limited.

Stanley. 7th February, 1924.

26/23.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 15th ulto, I now beg to give you further information, obtained by our Camp Manager, in connection with the robbery at Great Island.

The Darwin cutter "Flora" visited Great Island on the 1st of August 1923 and everything then was found to be intact.

The "Karina Kirsten", the Pebble Island schooner, was at North Arm on the 2nd August, left on the 4th and it is understood that she anchored for a night at Great Island on her way through the Falkland Sound.

About November 4th, the crew of the "Flora", which was at anchor at Cygnet Harbour, saw Davis's cutter proceeding North after having left Great Island that morning. On the "Flora's" arrival there the same day, the crew at once noticed that part of the wood stacked at the end of the jetty, which had been used for the "Falkland's" sheep pens, had recently been removed as was indicated by the top boards remaining shewing no signs of being weather beaten. On proceeding to the Cookhouse they observed that the door had been broken in and everything of value removed from within.

Either on the 13th or 14th Davis was at Great Island again, landed and went in search of a cow. This was the occasion on which the crew of the "Flora" was there at the same time as Davis and they state that he never mentioned the fact that when he arrived on his first visit that the Cookhouse had been broken

into - and the fact was not mentioned by either side.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

Davis also did not mention to our men (J.Aitken and J.Alazia) that the object of his first visit was to obtain the anchor and chain belonging to the "Gleam", but, that he was there for the purpose of catching the cow, in which he failed.

Although beside the point, the anchor and chain in question are at present on the "Flora" as J.Aitken claims that they belong to him - he also says that a share of the value of other anchors and chains which are now in Stanley and formerly belonging to the "Gleam" is his.

Our Manager at Speedwell Island states that when Davis arrived at Speedwell he noticed that his boat had recently been painted and that he left behind there some short pieces of Sandy Point boards which had the appearance of having been used for staging for painting purposes and that Davis also left behind a small amount of paint oil with one of the Speedwell hands. Paint oil was one of the articles taken away from Great Island.

It appears strange to us that Davis did not mention anything to the crew of the "Flora" about the cookhouse being broken into, if only to clear himself. That he and other members of his crew were around the premises is certain, as there were signs of footsteps in the garden and rhubarb had recently been cut there.

In conclusion I shall be obliged if further enquiries could be made both in connection with the visits of Davis <sup>and</sup> but also with that of the "Karina Kirsten".

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*W. H. B. Greenham*  
Manager.

Hon Col Sec

18-6-24

Sir,

The Police have made careful enquiries with reference to the stolen articles from Great Island.

I have seen Mr. Alex Bonner of Bleaker Island, who states that on Davis' return from Great Island, he had nothing on board.

I also saw Mr. Clarke from Speedwell Island who came to town last week and he assures me that Davis had nothing on board his cutter on his return from Great Island to Speedwell.

He also informs me that Davis, left a small quantity of paint oil at Speedwell in payment for the loan of a boat.

Davis purchased paint from the F.I.C. in Stanley before leaving for the voyage in question.

I have seen John Gleadell a member of the crew of the "Karina Kristian" of Pebble Island, he informs me he had never heard it mentioned that anything had been stolen from Great Island.

I am of the opinion that if Davis tampered with the F.I.C. property on Great Island that he destroyed the log, when he found that he was sighted by the crew of the Darwin Cutter.

I am Sir

Yours obedient servant

W. Sullivan Esq. Barrister