

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Governor's Office.

No.

451/15

Date of Receipt.

WAR/WW1/1#16

From

SUBJECT.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sale of photographic postcards illustrating sinking of the Dresden off Juan Fernandez.

No.

Date

180.

29th Decr., 1915.

Colonial Secretary's Record No.

1326/15

MINUTES.

Despatch to S/S No. 180 of the 29th Decr., 1915.

Registered Number of last Despatch.

AD.
30. 12. 15

No. next Despatch.



Government House,
Falkland Islands.

23rd October, 1915.

The following Royal Message addressed by HIS MAJESTY THE KING to His People is conveyed by the Governor to HIS MAJESTY'S dutiful and loyal subjects of the Colony of the Falkland Islands.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

TO MY PEOPLE.

At this grave moment in the struggle between my people and a highly organised enemy who has transgressed the laws of nations and changed the ordinance that binds civilised Europe together I appeal to you.

I rejoice in my Empire's effort and I feel pride in the voluntary response from my subjects all over the world who have sacrificed home fortune and life itself in order that another may not inherit the free Empire which their ancestors and mine have built.

I ask you to make good these sacrifices.

The end is not in sight. More men and yet more are wanted to keep my armies in the field and through them to secure victory and enduring peace.

In ancient days the darkest moment has ever produced in men of our race the sternest resolve.

I ask you men of all classes to come forward voluntarily and take your share in the fight.

In freely responding to my appeal you will be giving your support to our brothers who for long months have nobly upheld Britain's past traditions and the glory of her arms.

GEORGE R. I.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 170 -

Government House, Stanley.

29th December, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith copies of three picture post cards of the German Cruiser "Dresden" just prior to her being sunk at Juan Fernandez on the 14th March, 1915.

2. Supplies of these picture cards have been imported from England by Mr. A Hardy, and Mr. T Binnie, two shopkeepers, for sale locally.

3. I have however stopped the sale of the cards pending instructions as to the wishes of the Admiralty in the matter, and I shall be glad if I may receive your directions accordingly.

4. I enclose copies of letters from Mr. Hardy and Mr. Binnie with respect to the cards imported by them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Douglas Young
Governor.

ENCLOSURE I

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

ENCLOSURE II

Stanley Bakery,

Stanley.

5/11/15.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter which I received to-day I have enclosed specimens of postcards as requested. The originals I obtained from the Glasgow and had others printed from them by Naval Contractors in Devonport.

I will suspend all further sale until I hear from you.

Yours Truly,

(SGR) Arthur Hardy.

To the Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

T. & N. Binnie.

Tailors & Outfitters.

Falkland Islands.

Stanley, 11th December, 1913.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 11th inst, I beg respectfully to state that all the postcards which I am now selling, I was given to understand from my London agents that the sale of them were allowed.

I quote here paragraph from their letter dealing with same.

Abrahams. We are sending forward all the postcards we can get. Unfortunately there are Government restrictions preventing the issue of the pictures of certain warships but they are sending all that are allowed.

In view of this fact I took it for granted that these were allowed. Messrs Abrahams being Naval Photographers on a large scale, and would certainly know what subjects were suppressed. The ships engaged in the Battle off the Falklands were evidently amongst those suppressed, as I received none, and what surplus stock I had I immediately held back until further notice. Therefore you will see I have not intentionally attempted any violation of the law, as I was entirely guided by the information from Home.

If the sinking of the Dresden was suppressed, why should Abrahams send it as one being allowed for sale, as others I ordered they held back as suppressed.

As requested I enclose specimens of these cards for His Excellency's inspection.

I am, Sir,

Yours Respectfully,

(SGP) T. Binnie.

F.N. Giddard, Esq.

Censor.

Enc dit 3 7 May 1915

MISCELLANEOUS. No. 9 (1915).



NOTES EXCHANGED

WITH

THE CHILEAN MINISTER

RESPECTING

THE SINKING OF THE GERMAN CRUISER
"DRESDEN" IN CHILEAN TERRITORIAL
WATERS.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
April 1915.*

LONDON:

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
BY HARRISON AND SONS, 45-47, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.C.,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., 29, BREAMS BUILDINGS, FETTER LANE, E.C., and
28, ABINGDON STREET, S.W., and 54, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF; or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH), 23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LONDON, W.C.

1915.

[Cd. 7859.] Price $\frac{1}{3}$ d.

Notes exchanged with the Chilean Minister respecting the Sinking of the German Cruiser "Dresden" in Chilean Territorial Waters.

No. 1.

The Chilean Minister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 26.)

(Translation.)

Sir, *Chilean Legation, London, March 26, 1915.*
IN compliance with instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform your Excellency of the facts which led to the sinking of the German cruiser "Dresden" in Chilean territorial waters, as they appear to be established by the information in the possession of the Chilean Government.

The cruiser cast anchor on the 9th March in Cumberland Bay, in the island of Mas-a-Tierra, belonging to the Juan Fernandez group, 500 metres from the shore, and her commander asked the Maritime Governor of the port for permission to remain there for eight days for the purpose of repairing her engines, which were, he said, out of order. The Maritime Governor refused to grant the request, as he considered it unfounded, and ordered the captain to leave the bay within twenty-four hours, threatening to intern the cruiser if her stay were prolonged beyond that period. Upon the expiry of the time stated the Maritime Governor proceeded to notify the captain of the "Dresden" that he had incurred the penalty imposed, and he immediately reported the situation which had arisen to the Governor of the Republic. Meanwhile, on the 14th March, a British naval squadron, composed of the cruisers "Kent" and "Glasgow" and the armed transport "Orama," arrived at Cumberland Bay and immediately opened fire upon the "Dresden" while she lay at anchor. The Maritime Governor, who was making his way towards the "Glasgow" in order to carry out the usual obligations of courtesy, was compelled to return to land.

The "Dresden" hoisted a flag of truce, and despatched one of her officers to inform the "Glasgow" that she was in neutral waters, a circumstance disregarded by the British naval squadron, which summoned the "Dresden" to surrender, warning her that if she refused she would be destroyed. The captain of the "Dresden" then gave orders to blow up the powder magazine and sink the ship.

The act of hostility committed in Chilean territorial waters by the British naval squadron has painfully surprised my Government.

The internment of the "Dresden" had been notified to her captain by the Maritime Governor of Juan Fernandez, and the Government of the Republic, having been informed of what had occurred, would have proceeded to the subsequent steps had it not been for the intervention of the British naval squadron. Having regard to the geographical position of the islands of Juan Fernandez and to the difficulty of communication with the mainland, the only authority able to act in the matter did everything possible from the outset, and the internment of the "Dresden" was as effective and complete as the circumstances would permit when she was attacked by the British naval squadron. Even supposing that the British force feared that the "Dresden" intended to escape and to ignore the measures taken by the Maritime Governor of Juan Fernandez, and that this apprehension was adduced as the reason which determined its action, it should still be observed that the close watch which the British naval squadron could itself exercise precluded the possibility of the attempt. Moreover, no such eventuality was contemplated by the British squadron which, as I have said, did not give the Maritime Governor of Mas-a-Tierra the opportunity of explaining to the naval officer in command of the island the state of the "Dresden" in Cumberland Bay. The officer in command of the squadron acted *à priori* without pausing to consider that his action constituted a serious offence against the sovereignty of the country in whose territorial waters he was at the time. The traditions of the British navy are such that I feel convinced that if the officer who commanded the British squadron had received the Maritime Governor, who was going on board his ship in the fulfilment of his duty, and had been informed of the state of the interned vessel, he would not have opened fire upon her and would not have brought about the situation which now constrains my Government, in defence of their sovereign rights, to formulate the most energetic protest to His Britannic Majesty's Government.

Your Excellency will not be surprised that the attitude of the naval squadron should have aroused such deep feeling in Chile if you bear in mind the fact that the

[503]

2

British warships composing it had received, shortly before and upon repeated occasions, convincing proofs of the cordial friendship which unites us to Great Britain, and which finds its clearest and strongest expression in our respective navies. They had been supplied in the ports of the republic with everything which it was permissible for us to furnish consistent with our neutrality in the present European conflict. Nothing, therefore, could be a more painful surprise to us than to see our exceedingly cordial and friendly attitude repaid by an act which bears unfortunately all the evidences of contempt for our sovereign rights, although it is probable that nothing was further from the minds of those by whom it was unthinkingly committed.

Nor will your Excellency be astonished that my Government should show themselves to be very jealous of the rights and prerogatives inherent in the exercise of sovereignty. Nations which lack powerful material means of making their rights respected have no other guarantee and protection for their life and prosperity than the clear and perfect understanding, and the exact and scrupulous fulfilment of the obligations incumbent upon them towards other nations, and the right to demand that other nations shall equally observe their duties towards them. Few nations have given more convincing proofs than Great Britain of their desire to comply with international obligations and to require compliance from others, and few have shown more eloquently their respect for the rights and prerogatives both of great and small nations. These facts convince my Government that His Britannic Majesty's Government will give them satisfaction for the act committed by the British naval forces of a character to correspond with the frankly cordial relations existing between them. Nothing could be more deeply deplored by the Chilean Government than that the traditional bonds of friendship uniting the two peoples, which my Government value so highly, and upon which they base so many hopes of new and mutual benefits, should fail to derive on this occasion additional strength from the test to which circumstances have subjected them.

I have, &c.

AGUSTIN EDWARDS.

No. 2.

Sir Edward Grey to the Chilean Minister.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 30, 1915.

HIS Majesty's Government, after receiving the communication from the Chilean Government of the 26th March, deeply regret that any misunderstanding should have arisen which should be a cause of complaint to the Chilean Government; and, on the facts as stated in the communication made to them, they are prepared to offer a full and ample apology to the Chilean Government.

His Majesty's Government, before receiving the communication from the Chilean Government, could only conjecture the actual facts at the time when the "Dresden" was discovered by the British squadron; and even now they are not in possession of a full account of his action by the captain of the "Glasgow." Such information as they have points to the fact that the "Dresden" had not accepted internment, and still had her colours flying and her guns trained. If this was so, and if there were no means available on the spot and at the moment for enforcing the decision of the Chilean authorities to intern the "Dresden," she might obviously, had not the British ships taken action, have escaped again to attack British commerce. It is believed that the island where the "Dresden" had taken refuge is not connected with the mainland by cable. In these circumstances, if the "Dresden" still had her colours flying and her guns trained, the captain of the "Glasgow" probably assumed, especially in view of the past action of the "Dresden," that she was defying the Chilean authorities and abusing Chilean neutrality, and was only awaiting a favourable opportunity to sally out and attack British commerce again.

If these really were the circumstances, His Majesty's Government cannot but feel that they explain the action taken by the captain of the British ship; but, in view of the length of time that it may take to clear up all the circumstances and of the communication that the Chilean Government have made of the view that they take from the information they have of the circumstances, His Majesty's Government do not wish to qualify the apology that they now present to the Chilean Government.

I have, &c.

E. GREY.

MISCELLANEOUS. No. 9 (1915).

NOTES exchanged with the Chilean Minister
respecting the Sinking of the German Cruiser
"Dresden" in Chilean Territorial Waters.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command
of His Majesty. April 1915.*

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.



THE GERMAN CRUISER "DRESDEN" SHOWING WHITE FLAG FLYING FROM THE FOREMAST AT
JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND JUST BEFORE THE CAPTAIN BLEW UP THE FORE MAGAZINE.

Post Card

For Correspondence

Address Only



THE GERMAN CRUISER "DRESDEN" ON FIRE OFF THE ISLAND OF JUAN FERNANDEZ, MARCH 14, 1915. NO 605

POST CARD

This Space for communication

The address to be written here



A CLOSE VIEW OF THE PORT SIDE OF THE GERMAN CRUISER "DRESDEN" SHOWING DIRECT
HITS OF ARMOUR PIERCING SHELLS BY H.M.S. "GLASGOW" MARCH 14, 1915.

Post Card

For Correspondence

Address Only