FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 48/15.

Date of Receipt.

WAR/WW1/1#16

Governor's Office.

	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:

Registered Number of last Despatch.

MINUTES.

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

30. 12.15

No. next Despatch.



Government House, Falkland Islands. 23rd October, 1915.

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

BUCKINGMAM 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.

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

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

GEORGE R. I.

PALKLAND ISLANDS.

Covernment House, Stanley.
20th 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 Dinnie, 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.
- A. I enclose copies of letters from Mr. Mardy and Mr. Binaie with respect to the cards imported by them.

I have the honour to be.

Sir.

Your most obedient.

humble servant,

Covernor

THE STOUT POROURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF TATE FOR THE COLORIES.

210.02

Stanley Pakery, 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 Glassow and had others printed from them by Davak Contractors in Devenport.

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

Yours Truly,

(SCI) Arthur Fardy.

To the Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

T. & N. Binnie.

Stanley, 12th December, 1915.

Sir,

In roply to your letter of the lith inet, I beg respectfully to state that all the postouras which I am now selling. I was given to understand from my Lendon agents that the sale of them were allowed.

I quote here yaragraph from their letter dealing with same.

Abrahams . We are mending forward all the postcardo we can get. Unfortunately there are Covernment restrictions preventing the issue of the pictures of cortain warships but they are sending all that are allowed.

In view of this fact I took it for granted that these were allowed. Bestra Abrahama being Baval Thotographers on a large scale, and would certainly know what subjects were suppressed. The ships engaged in the Battle off too Filklands were evidently amongst those suppressed, as I received none, and what surplus stock I had I immediately held become intentionally attempted any violation of the law, as I was entirely guided by the information from Beam.

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 brack as suppressed.

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

I am, Sir,

Yours Respectfully,

(SGP) T. Binnie.

.N. Goddard .Psq.

Censor.

Ene dibi 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:

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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.)

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]

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,

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 intermation 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

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.

Chilean authorities and abusing Chilean neutrality, and was only awaiting a favourable

I have, &c. E. GREY.

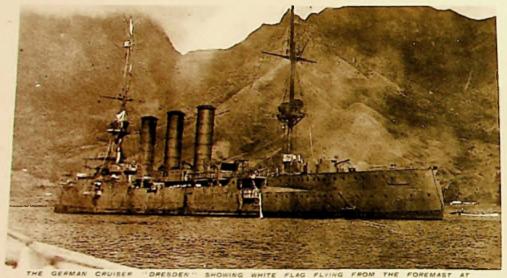
MISCELLANEOUS. No. 9 (1915).

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

LONDON:

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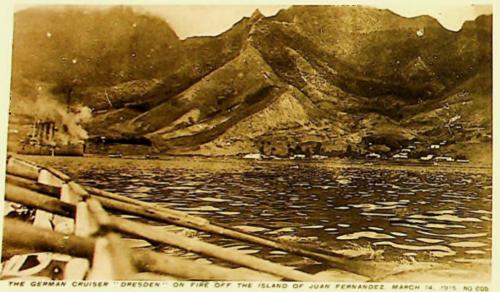


JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND JUST BEFORE THE CAPTAIN BLEW UP THE FORE MAGAZINE

Post Card

For Correspondence

Address Unly



POST CARD

This Space for communication

The address to be written here



GLASGOW MARCH 14 19:5

Post Card

For Correspondence

Address Only