

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Governor's Office.

No.

370/16

Date of Receipt.

1# 30



From		SUBJECT.	WAR/WW1/1#30
Secretary of State for the Colonies.		PRESS MESSAGES AND WAR WARNING MESSAGES TO MERCHANT VESSELS.	
		Issue from Falkland Islands of	
No.	Date.		
Misc.	22nd July, 1916.		

Colonial Secretary's Record No.

MINUTES.

Desp. to the Sec of State No: 1679 22.9.16.
AY
22-9-16

Registered Number of last Despatch

No. next Despatch

546/16

7m
FALKLAND ISLANDS

MISCELLANEOUS



Downing Street,

22. July, 1916.

Sir,

15th July 1916
I have the honour to transmit to you, for your consideration, copy of a letter from the Admiralty with regard to the issue from the Falkland Islands of press messages and of war warning messages to merchant vessels. A copy of an earlier Admiralty letter explaining the system is also enclosed.

23rd April 1916
2. Should you see no objection I shall be glad if the wishes of the Admiralty can be complied with.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

A. Bonner Law

GOVERNOR

W. D. YOUNG, ESQ., C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

11
COPY.

M.06071/16



Admiralty,

15th July, 1916.

Sir,

With reference to Admiralty letter M.02053/16 of the 23rd April, relative to the arrangements for the transmission of Press Messages and of War Warning Messages to Merchant Vessels from various Naval W/T Stations, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that they have under consideration the question of the issue of these messages from the Falkland Islands.

2. Arrangements have already been made for Reuter's Press Message to be handed to the General Staff Officer, Montevideo, who is being instructed to send it via the Government cable to the Falklands. The news message will be issued by the W/T Station at 3.30 a.m. (G.M.T.) and will be followed by the War Warning Message.

3. I am to enquire whether arrangements can be made for the War Warning Message to be sent also from the Port Stanley W/T Station at 1.30. 6.30. and 9.30 a.m. and p.m. on 600 metres, as indicated in the enclosure to Admiralty Letter quoted.

4. If so, I am to request that the Governor of the Falkland Islands may make the necessary arrangements with the British Consul, Montevideo, for the War Warning Message to be sent by him to Port Stanley Station.

I am &c.,

(SD.) O.MURRAY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

COLONIAL OFFICE.

COPY.

M. 02033.

ADMIRALTY

23rd April, 1918.

Sir,

In continuation of Admiralty letter M. 02345 of 15th instant I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that arrangements are now being made for the transmission of Press Messages and of War Warning Messages to Merchant Vessels from various Naval W/T Stations at home and abroad as shown in the attached Memorandum.

This system will come into force at home on 1st May and abroad as soon as the orders are received by the authorities concerned.

I am &c.,

(SD.) O. MURRAY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

COLONIAL OFFICE.

CCPY.

MEMORANDUM

M.02032

Warning Messages to Merchant Vessels.

(1) Warnings to Merchant Vessels to be made by the Standard and other W/T Stations as follows :-

(a) By Standard Stations and Ascension and Poldhu (also Falklands when ready) at the end of the press message. This message will be made every night from each Station on wave length shown in Column 2, which will give the Stations a large range and form a good means of communication with Merchant Vessels.

(b) To be made by the Standard Stations, Pembroke, Ascension, Gibraltar (Rock) and Port Stanley (Falklands) on the Commercial Wave (300 metres) at 1.30, 6.30 and 9.30 a.m. and p.m. (G.M.T.) If the message is urgent it should be made immediately on receipt at the Station, and repeated at the next routine time. Messages to be repeated at subsequent routine times, and at the end of the Press message as directed by the authority originating the message.

(c) These warnings to commence with the words "Government War Warning Begins" and terminate with the word "ends". They will be addressed to A B M V and will not be answered.

(2) Codes. Warning messages usually to be made En Clair, but to be made in the Codes supplied to Merchant Vessels at the discretion of the authority ordering the message to be made if the message contains specific information which it is important that the enemy should not possess. If code is used the message will

will be made in all the Codes supplied to Merchant Vessels.

(4) Whenever possible the messages to Merchant Vessels will be so worded as to contain no information which would be of value to the enemy, and should be made en clair; for example Vessels will be directed to avoid the known dangers rather than to follow certain routes. If Code is used it will be used only for the part of the report which it is desired to keep from the enemy's knowledge, and no formal warnings, or warnings previously sent en clair will be coded.

(5) As occasions may occur when it is required to send a message to an individual merchant vessel which is so far from the sending station that her answer cannot be heard, and also as on other occasions it may be desirable that a merchant vessel should not make an answer, such messages will be made at the routine times for warning messages, after the warning message, the ship's name being made in the text; such messages will be made as part of the War Warning message, i.e. between the words "Government War Warning begins" and "ends". In Home Waters messages may be made according to this procedure from Pembroke. The procedure will not be used from Land's End or Valentia. Other communications with Merchant Vessels in Home Waters will be made with Land's End or Valentia as at present.

An urgent message as to the presence of hostile submarines off the North Coast of Ireland may be made at any time by Malin Head W/T Station. Any necessary repetitions of this message to be made by Pembroke at routine times.

If no warning to Merchant Vessels is received at the Wireless Station, the Station will make the signal

"Government

War

"Government ^{Warning} begins No Warning issued ends"
at the routine times and at the end of the Press
Message.

TABLE.

Station.	Press and War Warning Message. Time (GMT) Wave Length	War Warning on 600 metres (Time GMT)	
Hong Kong	9.45 p.m.)	}	
Singapore	9.15 p.m.)		
Colombo	8.45 p.m.)		
Aden	7.30 p.m.)		
Seychelles	9.45 p.m.) 2,000 metres		
Mauritius	10.30 p.m.)		
Durban	3.15 a.m.)		
Port Nolloth	2.30 a.m.)		
Falklands (when ready)	not settled) 4,300 metres		
Ascension	1.30 a.m.)		1.30
Bathurst	2.30 a.m. 2,000 metres		6.30
Gibraltar	-----		9.30
Bermuda	+ 5.30 a.m.)		a.m.
Jamaica	+4.50 a.m.) 2,000 metres	and	
Demerara	+ 6.30 a.m.)	p.m.	
St. John's	+6.30 a.m.)		
Pembroke	-----		
Poldhu	11.30 p.m. 2,750 metres	-----	

+Times not yet finally settled.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 167.

Government House, Stanley.

22nd September, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 4th instant, of your despatch "Miscellaneous" of the 21st July, and to report that anticipating a request being made to you by the Admiralty, I arranged several weeks ago for the War Warning Messages sent out by the Naval Wireless Telegraph Station, Stanley, to be sent also from the Government Wireless Station, Stanley, on the 600 metre wave. This practice has now been in force for some time and is working satisfactorily.

2. The War Warning Messages are sent by Cable from the British Consulate, Montevideo, to the Officer in Charge of the Naval W/T Station, and are by him passed on to the Government W/T Station to be sent out immediately after being issued by the Naval W/T Station.

3. This arrangement works conveniently, and I submit it is not necessary for me to ask the British Consul, Montevideo, to also send the War Warning Messages by cable direct to the Government W/T Station.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Respectful servant,

Douglas Home
Governor.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE DOMINIONS.

Navy W/T Station.

Falkland Islands.

9th September 1916.

H.E. The Governor.

Government House.

Stanley.F.I.

Sir:-

I have the honour to submit

Government War Warnings have been transmitted once in the 24 hours by the Navy W/T Station at 3:50am G.M.T. commencing the 11th August 1916. The Government Station following on a 600 metre wave length at 3:55am G.M.T. on the 12th August 1916 and continued doing so until the 7th September when a temporary breakdown caused a stoppage of the programme.

I have the honour to be ,Sir,
Your Excellency's Obedient Servant.

J. Robert Crawford.

Lieut.R.N.V.R.

Officer in Charge.

Navy W/T Station.

Falkland Islands .

^{6th}
23rd September 1916

His Excellency

The Governor

Government House, Stanley.

Sir:-

I have the honour to submit a Government war warning was picked up from Ascension W/T Station on the 15th June 1916 and was sent out by the Navy and Government Stations on that date this was continued until the 20th of the same month when Ascension discontinued the warning and we did the same.

I have the honour to be , Sir,

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant.

J. Robert Crawford.

Lieut.R.N.V.R.

Officer in Charge.

2 out with out Cook

at 3.50

followed in

at 3.55.

at 3.55