

Whaling Reports
Diaries
No. 443A

1 # 34

C.S.

C.O. Bennett

SUBJECT.

1918
27th April

Report and
Diary for
South Shetlands. Season 1917-18.

Previous Paper.
~~43/17~~
44/17

1113/17

MINUTES.

Diary returned to Mr. Bennett to be sent
through the Collector of Customs —

C.O.
29.4.18.

Minute from Treasurer forwarding Diary &
Report. 6.5.18

H.E. / Submitted

C.O.
7.5.18.

Hon Col Sec.

Copy of Mr. Bennett's report sent to
Sec of State by Dep No 58. of 8.5.18

Subsequent Paper.

AD
9.5.18

Please ask Magistrate South Georgia to furnish
Whaling

370/19

Whaling returns of Steed Forja
in South Shetlands as soon as possible.

17.
9.5 18

Letter to S.M. South Georgia, 11.5.18.

Minute to G.O. Bennett, 13.5.18.

Minute to Hon. Treasurer, 13.5.18.

443/18



Stanley
27. April 1918

Sir

I have the honour to attach my
diary for the South Shetlands. season 1917-8.

and also British Museum Report forms
filled in for S.S. "Solstrøif" "Orn" "Bombay".

M.P.

489/17

"Thor I." S.S. Svend Foyn I proceeded
direct from Belgia Straits to S Georgia,
the Museum Report for this vessel will, I take
it, be handed up on arrival there, at present
all details of this catch is unknown to me.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

A. Bennett

To the Honourable
the Colonial Secretary

Stanley

C.S.O 443/18

South Shetlands
Whaling Season
1917-18

Diary

A.G. Bennett.
as Deputy Collector of Customs.



Season 1917-18

December 27th 1917 Arrived at Government Jetty 1 pm
for departure for S Shetlands per S.S. Solstreif,
proceeded to sea in moderate weather in afternoon.
The journey was of a calm type until noon
30th December, when "Solstreif" in fog & snow struck
heavily on rocks off Cape Melville and went over
them, whaler "Eik" was on the port bow & shortly
after came as close as tide & swell allowed. after some
time life boats were put out, one sank & a freeman was
drowned. The feeling on board was that the whole ship's
bottom had been torn off. I immediately offered
the Captain my assistance, then secured Government
property in the shape of stamps & seals & great coat.
Two hours later with the Captains permission I left
the ship in lifeboat & got on to "Eik" with some fifty
of the workers & continued my voyage to Deception Island
where we arrived about 4.30 am 31st Dec 1917

Dec 31st

On arrival at Deception Isd "Solstreif" had not gone
down at all, but most of the ballast tanks appear to
be full, little appears to be able to be done until
considerable discharge of coal is effected. In order to
save ship & get her into seaworthy condition & filled
with oil, I have suggested to the Captain that he should
take any material whatever now lying on shore and
mostly the property of the Hektor Company, He agreeing
to pay this Company, and I taking a list of the goods
so used as a check. Great credit is due to Captain,
officers, & crew, for the fine way cool way in which
they behaved themselves under the circumstances
attending the accident, and the weather conditions

Dec 31st contd. then prevailing, where but a few moments before the impact, I was on the bridge, and it was then very thick, & cold,

Jan 1st 1918

So far as can be found No 2 & 3 water ballast tanks are badly damaged from the bottom, a small quantity of water is coming into a bunker, whalers are now looking for other factories, should they be here, there is no trace of them in Deception Island.

Before much can be done the bottom of the ship must be examined & damage known, failing finding factories in S Shetlands, the Captain considers & I agree that it would be best to fetch a diver from Punta Arenas together with cement for the repair of the ship if such a course is possible otherwise Solström must be left in Deception for the winter for the damage is considered too great to risk the ship to sea. & crew divided among other factories when they arrive, for conveyance to Monte Video. No other arrivals during week. The ship has been moved & work started on oil production.

Jan 5th

Whalers report scarcity of whales and their frightened behaviour, some 400 bbls of oil so far produced.

progress in finding the leak in tank top in bunker is being made & much coal has been removed. Three ballast tanks Nos 2, 3 & 6 must be in a very bad condition as no amount of pumping will reduce the water one inch, No 5 can be pumped dry, but leaks. Today I cleared the whaler Birk for Punta Arenas via Usuiak.

The Manager is making this journey, starting early on the 6th, in order to arrange for & procure divers etc for the ship, Unable to obtain wireless connection with any station from here up to now although the operator can receive news, also

hear most S. American Stations working, and a number of the high power N. American, on the particular set that has been installed on board this vessel in U.S.A.

In the absence of divers, the ship appears to be almost solely floating on her tank tops.

During the week, some very cold weather, with high wind has been experienced, It is very wonderful the way the ice + snow has retreated on this Island, since my last visit 4 years ago, Temperatures of the water extending at various spots on the beach below H.W. mark vary between 80° + 130° F.

Jan 12th "Bok" with Capt Thorstensen of "Solstreif" left for Punta Arenas to obtain divers etc in order to repair ship if possible on Jan 6th. Whaler Bjerk arrived from Montevideo a few hours later, the two whalers are catching whales + the factory is working.

There appears to be a great dearth in whales about 1500 bbls of oil have been produced so far more could have been done had it not been necessary to land quantities of coal, this operation requires at least half the men usually used on whale work.

Very winter like weather has been experienced during most of the week, with not much strong wind.

Jan 19th During the week weather has been mild, almost continuous fog at low elevation + almost a total absence of sunshine - possibly 12 hours on 13th visited the steam hole that was, the spot is now two gas spots the sulphur fumes are very strong, + resemble burnt gun powder in taste + smell. a fresh outbreak can be expected at any time. On 15th Thor I + four whalers arrived from S. Georgia, a 7 days journey owing to weather, breakdowns etc, this vessel almost hit the same rock as Solstreif found crew had forced doors of Hecker's premises + Government House, crews are now confined to ship until culprits are found. Collected a very small seal on shore, believing it to be a fur seal it proved to be a juvenile weddell's, on the 16th I found on shore

a buoy the subject of a report. Whaling is progressing very slowly, owing to the whales being some distance away in Belgica Straits. "Solstreif" in present condition cannot make the journey to that spot.

Jan 26th

During the week the weather conditions have consisted of the usual cold, damp, fog type, two days however were of the fine bright sunny order. The Solstreif with 2 whalers progresses with oil production in a very slow manner. some days have been filled up by carcass hunting along the shores - for old & discarded bodies of whales, Thor I with 4 whalers appears to be working well & rapidly. no signs of the manager Capt Thorstensen's return yet from Punta Arenas.

Feb 2nd

On the 27th at 11 pm a somewhat strong earthquake was experienced, felt strongly on the ship. On the 30th whaler "Bok" entered from Punta Arenas. & was later followed by the Alejandro - a small vessel owned by Brown & Blomhard of Punta Arenas, with salvage gear on board for the repair of the ship. Diving operations were at once commenced, and later the engineer in charge Mr Robbins informed me that, had the Solstreif not been so finely constructed a ship as she is, she must have sunk like a stone, another 3 inches less water would certainly have proved fatal to the ship, in one tank alone No 2 there are 22 damaged spots. On Feb 1st I was requested by Capt Berggreen Thor I to deal with some of his Jamaican crew, as they refused duty & therefore work was impeded, I heard all sides & fined 5 men 10/- each for refusing duty, a case of assault of a witness arising out of this case I dismissed as all parties were lying. I then mustered all west Indians 20 in number on deck & addressed them. I am informed that since this, they are a totally different crew & work splendidly. The weather during the week has been variable, fog, dull, & periods of heavy snow, whales are more numerous, but very poor in oil.

On board Solstreif, two of the Latin crew-workers, on the 4th Feb. appear to have disagreed, whereon a Spaniard poured a large pot of boiling tea over an Argentine, the Argentine who was very badly burned on the face, chest, stomach & both arms. replied with a knife sticking the Spaniard in the chest, I do not feel clear as to the position of this case, being as it is on board a Foreign ship in a British harbour, The Capt has not charged them & I do not want him to do so until Stanley is reached, for, should I take preliminary evidence here the case must be heard in Stanley, whereas if I do not the whole matter could, if desired, slide. Both men returned to work within 5 days, The week has been made up of very great changes in weather all types being represented.

Whales are scarce, & as things are going this season looks like a failure, but few whales can be seen either here in Bransfield or down Belgia Straits, Huge numbers are, however, reported at about 40-60 miles North of the Islands this distance is too great in so stormy seas as these.

Repair to "Solstreif" is progressing & but for the excessive filth in the ballast tanks, would have been finished by about the 12th, On the 8th I proceeded out in whaler Björk shooting whales, from 5 am to 11 am we saw & chased 2 blue whales, from 11 am to 2 pm no whale seen 2 to 5 pm chased a blue whale.

These three were scared & consequently not secured, 6 pm we dropped in with another & captured it returning at 9.30 pm

Feb. 16th

The week has passed with very calm weather similar to that, that has prevailed during the whole season, mainly dull & fog. with bright intervals. much rain & some snow & occasional wind

on the 10th "Orn" whalers arrived & proceeded to Belgia Straits on the 11 Bombay whalers, on the 12th Grand Toga I whalers arrived, both went to Belgia Straits, Whales appear to be scarce round description. & as one of Thor I's whalers went down the Straits & returned stating that in three days, one fin back only was seen between 63° & 55.30 S. on the 16th Alejandro left cleared together with Björk for Punta Arenas

Feb 16th cont'd the temporary repairs to the Solstreich being completed. Should the whaling not improve I cannot see that these factories will make much oil. that is those just arrived.

Feb 23rd On 17th Alejandro & Bjerk left for Usukaia & P Arenas. whales reported to be numerous, in Bransfield str. this appears to be but a passing few by later results, much fog. in early part of week, on 21st Thor I cleared for Melchion Id. Belgia Straits. One of Solstreich's whalers went to Lansen Id. with a wounded man. (to doctor on (m)) & on return 22nd reported that there was no whales in Belgia. On in 10 days had made but 500 oil, this quantity is but one day's full work. Whaling conditions were impossible on 22 & 23rd owing to S.W. Gale blowing

March cont'd The week's weather has consisted of a mixture that is to be expected - Gales, heavy snow, warm intervals, & intensely cold periods with an absence of fresh water at times, Some Fin & Blue whales have been caught, Finbacks are reported as being more plentiful on March 1st. Thor I returned to Deception Id. Having been some 8 days in Belgia Straits. - Melchion Id. Harbours? He reports excessive cold. Gale & snow. an almost total absence of whale. in sheltered waters there. but out to sea, well clear of the land a large amount of Finwhales are to be found - in seas too rough for their capture, these whales have been reported for the last 5 weeks, Capt Berggreen states that he had captured 5 specimens of "Minkeval": a small whale that abounds in quiet channels; - *B. antarctica*, - lesser ~~the~~ Rudolph's whale - This whale is from 20-30 feet long. The blubber is stated to be some 4" thick & produces 2 bbls of oil, this is in my opinion a very small quantity; The body & bones were used up in press boilers & no account kept of individual production, taking 2 bbls as blubber oil at least 4½ should be the total, My own idea, is that a bad estimate only was made, & no real, careful measurement took place, Manager of "Solstreich" still at Punta Arenas.

Mar 9th

During the week, whales have been less scarce, a few specimens of very fat Blues being captured.

Bright, sunny, cold to extremely cold & wind at times has made up the week. On the 8th Svend Foyn whalers returned to Deception Isth. reporting a scarcity of whales in the Straits & also the capture of 4 Right whales by Orm II

Mar 16th

Whales have been more abundant than at any time since our arrival, on the 13th Bjerk returned from Puntarenas. The weather has been of a winter type, bright & sunny, often freezing, & much snow, frequently no water has been obtainable from the shore, whaling is so bad in the Straits that Orm returned here on the 16th & Bombay is expected at any time, so that all 5 factories will be in Deception Harbour. This is not a good scheme either for whaling or water.

March 23rd

On the 17th 2 whalers lost 8 whales as a result of gale, 5 were recovered later. On the 18th Bombay returned all reporting almost total absence of whales in the South, owing to gales not many whales caught. much snow falls with bright intervals, very cold, all fresh water except a quantity exuding from under a glacier some 3 miles distant, ~~is~~ frozen up. Temperature at noon on the 22nd 24°F.

Mar 30th

On 24th a heavy gale N.E. whalers went out 25th. a whaler reported fine & calm weather in the Straits during the gale in Deception I of the 22-24th & some whale there. On the 26th Orm, Bombay, Svend Foyn, again left for the South in their efforts to obtain oil. Following the departure of these factories, the two remaining here had sufficient whales to keep them in full work for the remainder of week. Dull & calm weather has prevailed for the latter part of week, with much snow falling & mild at times. Thor I has about 17,000 & Solström 13,000 bbls now.

1918.
April 6th.

whaling operations up to the 3rd were good & much oil was obtained, in spite of the N.E. hard wind, cold & snow. On the 3rd the wind developed into a gale with snow & low temperatures, this continued until the 6th inclusive. On this date ships, riggings, etc. were one mass of snow & ice from the spray.

April 13

A few whales captured during early days of the week but the weather was quite against such work, boats returning one mass of ice & almost continuous snow & gales amounting to a blizzard at times. On the 10th it was decided to stop whaling, a sudden change came in the shape of heavy rain all day - a record incident, this was followed again by truly antarctic weather until we left on the 12th. On the 13th although we were well clear of the land everything on board was deep snow & ice, rigging included.

April 16th

Arrived in Port Williams at 3.30 pm after a good weather passage. Landed at 7 pm.

A. J. Bennett

Govt. Officer.

18.4.18

1917-18 Season

WHALING AT S SHETLANDS. 1917-18.

COMPANY. "Nor." SHIP. "Bombay"

WHALERS	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP BK	OTHER WHALES	TOTAL
NOVEMBER							
DEC							
JAN							
FEB			8	4	3		15
MAR			16	40	10		66
APRIL			7	66	3		76
TOTAL			31	70	16		117

OIL PRODUCTION.

QUALITIES	WHALE OIL				TOTAL
	NO 1	NO 2	NO 3	NO 4	
NOVEMBER					
DEC					
JAN					
FEB	363	42	211		616
MAR	1854	330	720		2904
APRIL	1393	328	259		1980
TOTAL	3610	700	1190		5500

BARRELS

WHALES PER WHALE BOAT.

Average 47 6/10

WHALER	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP BK	OTHER WHALES	TOTAL
"Nebit"			16	29	6		51
"Gnas"			5	17	4		26
"Havørn"			10	24	6		40
			31	70	16		117

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS FORM IS PROPERLY FILLED IN. AND RETURNED TO THE WHALING OFFICER AT S SHETLANDS. AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

Johs. Johannesen
MANAGER.

WHALING AT S. SHETLANDS. 1917-18

COMPANY. Norge

SHIP. Solstrand

WHALES	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP BACK	OTHER WHALES	TOTAL.
NOVEMBER	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DEC	-		1 X	-	-	-	1
JAN			54 X	22	14 X		90
FEB			29 X	50 X	3 X		82
MAR			26 X	67			93
APRIL			6	19			25
TOTAL			116	158	17		291

OIL PRODUCTION.

QUALITIES	WHALE OIL				TOTAL	
	NO 1	NO 2	NO 3	NO 4		
MONTH						
NOVEMBER						
DEC						
JAN	3607	735	460	-	4802	
FEB	2394	850	420		3664	
MAR	3058	900	470		4428	
APRIL	1441	515	250		2206	
TOTAL	10,500	3000	1600		15,100	BARRELS.

WHALES PER WHALE BOAT

WHALE	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP	BK	OTHER	TOTAL
"Bar"			24	53				77
"Eir"			54	73	10			137
"Bier"			38	32	7			77
TOTAL			116	158	17			291

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS FORM IS PROPERLY FILLED IN, AND RETURNED TO

THE WHALING OFFICER AT S SHETLANDS AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

G. Thorsen
MANAGER.

WHALING AT S. SHETLANDS. 1917-18

COMPANY. _____

SHIP. Thor I.

WHALES	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP BACK	OTHER WHALES	TOTAL.
NOVEMBER							
<i>S. Georgia</i> DEC 30-4-18			10	1	1		12
JAN			58	25	2		85
FEB			59	60	2	5 Minck	126
MAR			35	76		1 Bollnose	112
APRIL			4	12			16
TOTAL			166	174	5	6	351

OIL PRODUCTION.

QUALITIES	WHALE OIL					TOTAL	BARRELS.
	NO 0.	NO 1.	NO 2.	NO 4			
MONTH							
NOVEMBER							
<i>S. Georgia</i> DEC 3-17-4-18	580	76	369			1,025	
JAN	3,081	348	1,166			4,595	
FEB	3,841	524	1,776			6,141	
MAR	3,195	1,415	1,437			6,047	
APRIL	503	20 1,087	257			1,867	
TOTAL	11,200	3,470	5,005			19,675	

WHALES PER WHALE BOAT

WHALE	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP BK	OTHER	TOTAL
"Oddo".			58	40	2	2 Minck	102
"Lyngby".			51	49		2	102
"Edda".			34	48		1 Bollnose	83
"Inarri".			23	28	3	1 Minck	55
			166	174	5	6	351

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS FORM IS PROPERLY FILLED IN. AND RETURNED TO THE WHALING OFFICER AT S SHETLANDS AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

John E. Berggreen
MANAGER.

WHALING AT S SHETLANDS. 1917-18.

COMPANY.

S/S Ormen

SHIP.

S/S Ormen

WHALERS	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP BK	OTHER WHALES	TOTAL
NOVEMBER							
DEC							
JAN							
FEB			9	20	9		38
MAR	5		27	39	6		77
APRIL	4		8	1/2	7		61
TOTAL	9		44	101	22		176

OIL PRODUCTION.

QUANTITIES	WHALE OIL				TOTAL.
	NO 1	NO 2	NO 3	NO 4	
NOVEMBER					
DEC					
JAN					
FEB	870	260	250		1380
MAR	2700	950	400		4050
APRIL	2430	365	180		2975
TOTAL	6000	1575	830		8355

BARRELS

WHALES PER WHALE BOAT.

average 47 1/2 blks per

WHALER	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP BK	OTHER WHALES	TOTAL
<i>Hunter</i>			15	29	10		54
<i>Grub</i>	4		15	31	7		57
<i>Ullr</i>	5		14	41	5		65
<i>Total</i>	9		44	101	22		176

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS FORM IS PROPERLY FILLED IN. AND RETURNED TO THE WHALING OFFICER AT S SHETLANDS. AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

Thorvald Hartman
MANAGER.

STANLEY
6th May 1918

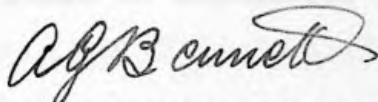
Sir.

I have the honour to forward herewith, in triplicate, my report on the Whaling at South Shetlands for the season 1917-8, together diary kept during the duty. This diary I passed into the Office of the Colonial Secretary, with other papers, on April 27th, as my letter of appointment in C/S 1113/17 to S. Shetlands was received from that office, I naturally returned the various papers etc there. However on landing from the Cargo boat, I find it is returned for transmission through you.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient Servant



Late Deputy Collector
S. Shetlands

To the Hon: the
Collector of Customs.

Stanley.

Falkland Islands.

REPORT ON THE WHALING SEASON 1917-1918

ALL SOUTH SHETLANDS.

The following vessels operated at South Shetlands and Grahams Land, during the Whaling Season 1917-1918:-

- (1) Solstreif. arrived 31/12/17
- (2) Thor 1 " 15/ 1/18
- (3) Orn 11 " 10/ 2/18
- (4) Bombay " 11/ 2/18
- (5) Svend Foyn " 12/ 2/18

The season has not been good, this may be accounted by:-

- (a) The very late arrival on the Whaling grounds of the factories, especially of the "Orn 11", "Bombay", and "Svend Foyn", these three vessels did not start operations until 12-14 th of February,- a time of the season when the good weather has gone, and quite hopeless to expect even half a cargo, starting at a period, that, in normal years is considered the finish of the season.
- (b) On arrival at King George Land. South Shetlands, on 30/12/17, the "Solstreif" ran over a reef of rocks severely damaging the vessel, in a fog. The Whale Boats "Bok" and "Bjerk" were employed, each for 24 days at different times, to make voyages to Punta Arenas. Chile, in connection with the extensive repairs necessary to save both ship & cargo, thus this factory had but two Whale Boats, whaling for a large part of the time, with a consequent loss of at least 3000 barrels of oil, as a result.
- (c) The number of new men shooting whales, for the first time at S. Shetlands, although expert shots the want of local knowledge told against them, to

to some degree.

All factories arrived too late to participate in the finest part of the Blue-whale fishery, (end of November to early January).

The "Solstroof" remained in Deception Harbour the whole season, this was necessary until March, owing to the damaged condition of the ship, and the necessary repairs made thereto. "Thor 1" arrived at Deception Isd. with four boats, from South Georgia, on January the 15th, this ship remained all the season, except for a short time, February 21st to March 1st, when this vessel was operating in Belgica Straits. On his return, the Captain, stated that the conditions were bad, few whales, and that he had made but 700 barrels of oil. "Orn 11" "Bombay" & "Svend Foyn" went to Belgica Straits to start, they returned to Deception Isd:-

"Svend Foyn" March 5th with about 1500 barrels,

"Orn 11" March 16th with about 2000 barrels,

"Bombay" March 15th with about 900 barrels,

On March the 26th, these three factories again left, for the Belgica Straits, the weather much less violent there than in Deception Isd, These ships remained in Belgica Straits for the remainder of the season. During their stay in Deception Isd, the "Orn 11" made 1500 and the "Bombay" 1000 barrels of oil, the "Svend Foyn" produced about 2000 barrels.

(2) The total production of oil, (less the catch of the "Svend Foyn," which I understand to be about 6000 barrels, fuller figures I could not ascertain, as the vessel went direct from Belgica Straits, to South Georgia without being able to furnish me with the necessary information), amounts to 47,605 barrels, Estimating the oil @ £50 a ton would give a value of £ 2,380,250. The average barrels of oil per whale, made in the season being 51.6 as compared

compared to 46.3 in 1916-7.

(3) Owing to shipping entering, & clearing to, & from Punta Arenas, Chile, in connection with the repairs to the "Solstreif" I was prevented from visiting other parts of the Dependency, either to the North or South, and therefore unable to collect, or observe minerals or animals of scientific or commercial value, or report on the many so-called harbours.

As the season was a poor one, all factories remained working until weather conditions became impossible. The first to leave was the "Solstreif" on April the 12th, followed by the others on the 13th & 14th.

The Hektor Company's Land Station at Deception Island was not at work during the season.

Schedules A to F (six) show the catch in figures, and in comparison to the previous season.

OBSERVATIONS

The season 1917-18 appeared to me, to exactly resemble season 1915-4, as from January onwards. Whales were never abundant in Bransfield Straits, it was stated by several of the gunners that, there was a marked absence of Whale-feed- Plankton-crustacea, this might be accounted for, by the almost total absence of icebergs & smaller ice in these Straits, during the season. The temperature of the water was found to be 36.F. in February & March. The Swedish Expedition reported the temperature as being 39.F. in January 19027. This rise in temperature could affect the Plankton-life, - the principal feed of whales in these waters. From statements made to me, by gunners the same conditions prevailed

prevailed in the Belgica Straits, with one exception in the 3rd week of January. Whales were then plentiful.

Two Whale Boats, "Bel" and "Bjork" made trips to Chile these reported large numbers of whales, mostly "Fin", between 40 & 100 miles from land, they were thought to be feeding. These whales were also seen by arriving factories, and the reports extended from early January to late February. No large numbers entered the whaling grounds, at any time.

Hump-back Whales were reported by the gunners, as being more common than in recent years, of those caught during the present season, they formed 6.4% of the whole, as compared to 1% in 1916-7. Of those 20 were seen by me, of the 20 none were lighter in colour than No 3, many were as dark as No 4 by the scale given in Dr. Lillie's "Report on the New Zealand Hump-backed Whales. Terra Nova Expedition.

Alg Bennett

To my Deputy Collector.

(1) Hauled on 2 Georges, largest from Belgica Straits

(2) Size of Minck. Whales - 3, subantarctic

WHALING.

SOUTH SHELLANDS.

SEASON 1917-18

The following statement shows the total number, and species of whales caught by the Whaling Companies, operating in these waters, during the season.

COMPANY	SPECIES OF WHALES.						TOTAL
	RIDGE	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP-BK	OTHER	
NORGE. (Solstrolif)	-	-	116	158	17	-	291
Nor. (Bombay)	-	-	51	70	16	-	137
ORNEN. (Orin 11)	9	-	44	101	22	-	176
BRYDE & DMIL (Thor 1)	-	-	156	173	4	1 Bottle nose 5 Pike(2)	339
	9	-	347	502	50	6	985
SOUTHERN. (1) (Second Team)	-	-					
TOTAL							

(1) Sailed to S Georgia, direct from Belgica Straits.

(2) Pike or Minck Whale - *B. acuterestrata*

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WHALING.

SOUTH SHELLANDS.

SEASON 1917-8

The following statement shows the total production, and the grades of whale oil, made during the season.

WHALE OIL.

COMPANY	QUALITY.				TOTAL.
	No. 0	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	
NORGE. (Solstreif)	-	10,500	3,000	1,600	15,100
NOR. (Bombay)	-	3,610	700	1,190	5,500
ORNEK. (Orn 11)	-	6,000	1,525	530	8,055
BRYDE & DANL. (Thor 1)	10,620	5,396	4,636	-	18,650
	10,620	23,504	9,361	3,620	47,605
SCHEEREN. (1) (Svend Foyn)					
TOTAL					

(1). Sailed direct to S. Georgia, from Belgica Straits, catch not certain, believed to be about 3,000 barrels.

WHALING.

SOUTH SHEETLANDS.

SEASONS, 1916-17, 1917-18

Comparative statement of the whales caught, and the oil produced,

COMPANY	WHALES		OIL	
	1916-7	1917-8	1916-7	1917-8
Norge. (Selstroif)	540	291	27,400	15,100
Nor (Bombay)	446	117	20,500	5,500
Ornen (Orn 11)	433	176	21,260	3,555
Bryde & Dahl. (Thor 1)	At S. Georgia	339	At S. Georgia	13,650
Total		925		47,605
Southern. (1) (Svend Foyn)	520		24,000	
	3,005		98,760	

(1) Sailed direct to S. Georgia, from Belgica Straits.

WHALING.

SOUTH GEORGIA. SEASONS 1916-17 1917-18

Schedule D.

The following comparative statement shows the number & species of whales
taken during the last two seasons.

COMPANY	RIGHT		SPERM		BLUE		FIN		HUMPBACK		OTHER		TOTAL.	
	1916-7	1917-3	1916-7	1917-3	1916-7	1917-3	1916-7	1917-3	1916-7	1917-3	1916-7	1917-3	1916-7	1917-3
NORGE (Solbrig)	-	-	-	-	446	116	99	153	4	17	-	-	549	291
NOR (Bombay)	-	-	-	-	574	31	67	70	5	16	-	-	446	117
ORNEN (Orn II)	-	9	-	-	213	44	367	101	3	22	-	-	433	176
BRIDE & DANL (Thor I)	(a)	-	(a)	-	(a)	156	(a)	173 173	(a)	4	(a)	6	(a)	539
		9		-		357		503		59		6		923
SOUTHERN (1) (Svend Foyn)	-	-	-	-	342	-	169	-	9	-	-	-	520	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	1330	-	602	-	21	-	-	-	2003	-

(a) at South Georgia 1916-17.

(1) sailed direct to South Georgia, from Belgica Straits.

WHALING.

SOUTH SHETLANDS. SEASON 1917-18.

The following comparative statement shows the number of the various species caught each month during the last two seasons.

MONTH	RIGHT		SPERM		BLUE		FIN		HUMPBACK		OTHER		TOTAL.	
	1916-17	1917-8	1916-7	1917-8	1916-7	1917-8	1916-7	1917-8	1916-7	1917-8	1916-7	1917-8	1916-7	1917-8.
NOVEMBER	-	-	-	1	23	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	24	-
DECEMBER	-	-	-	-	315	-	18	-	5	-	-	-	333	-
JANUARY	-	-	-	-	543	113	62	47	3	16	-	-	608	176
FEBRUARY	-	-	-	-	354	105	356	134	11	17	-	5	721	261
MARCH	-	5	-	-	145	104	165	222	2	16	-	1	312	343
APRIL	-	4	-	-	-	25	-	99	-	10	-	-	-	133
TOTAL	-	9	-	-	1330	347	602	502	21	59	-	6	2003	923

"SVENE FOYN" sailed direct to South Georgia, from Belgica Straits. Catch at present unknown and not included.

WHALING.

SOUTH SHELLANDS.

SEASON 1917-18

A monthly statement of the whales caught during the season

MONTH	WHALES						TOTAL
	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	HUMP-BACK	OTHER	
January	-	-	115	47	16	-	176
February	-	-	105	134	17	5 Pike	261
March	5	-	104	222	16	1 Bottle -nose	348
April	4	-	25	90	10	-	133
Total	9	-	347	502	59	6	923

The catch made by the "Svend Foyn," not included.

Three factories:—"Orn 11," "Bombay," "Svend Foyn," did not commence operations until mid February.



443/18

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary

The attached report from Mr. A. G. Beckett
which was received by me this afternoon, submitted.

A. G. Beckett

Treasurer.

6th April 1918.

? May
C. G.

443/18

443/18

11th May,

18

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that on the completion of her whaling operations in the waters of the South Shetlands the s.s. "Svend Foyn I" proceeded direct to South Georgia, leaving no record of her catch &c with the Government representative in the South Shetlands.

2. The Governor directs me to request you to be so good as to forward to me at your earliest convenience the whaling returns furnished by the s.s. "Svend Foyn I" in respect of her South Shetlands operations.

3. You should also transmit at the same time the British Museum Forms (No 132) completed by the s.s. "Svend Foyn I" in respect of the same operations.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. B. Binnie Esq.,
Stipendiary Magistrate,
South Georgia.


Colonial Secretary.

443/18

No. 443/18

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this letter, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

13th May, 1918

To Hon. Treasurer

Stanley

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I shall be obliged if you will be so good as to forward the attached Minute to Customs Officer Bennett for his information.



Colonial Secretary.

443/18

No. 443/18

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this letter, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

.....13th May,.....1918

To...Customs Officer Bennett

From

.....Stanley.....

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

.....

I have the honour to inform you that a copy of your report on the whaling operations in the South Shetlands during the 1917-18 season, which was submitted to the Governor, has been forwarded to the Secretary of State by His Excellency.

CS
Colonial Secretary.