

Secret

1939

No.

S/40/39

Secretary of State

SUBJECT.

1939.

9<sup>th</sup> October

Previous Paper.

See C.S. 122/37

Falkland Islands labour required by Messrs Salvesen and Coy for the 1939-40 whaling season.

MINUTES.

1.

Secret tele: No. 79 from S. of S.

In C.S. 122/37 Messrs Salvesen asked for 35 men. met 10. X. 39.

H.C.A.

Please see with Capt and pass the file to Captain Weir.

~~11/11~~ 4/x/39

Agric: Adviser.

To note. I notice in another file that Messrs Salvesen asked for the 35 men by the 25<sup>th</sup> October. It might be advisable to send Messrs Salvesen a tele: from this office saying they will

Subsequent Paper.

be provided with 25 men  
and that they will be sent  
about end of month.

MCH  
C.S.  
12. X. 39.

Hon. Col. Sec.

I agree that a  
telegram should be sent to Salvesen.

Done  
13/10/39

Submitted. May a  
telegram be sent to Messrs  
Salvesen saying the men will  
leave about the end of this  
month if that will suit.

MCH  
C.S.  
13. X. 39.

You provided that they G  
will have to refund to G.S.  
the cost of the pencils (stating  
what that will be)

MCH 13/10

Telegram to S. of S. of 11. 10. 39. 2.  
Telegram to Chr. Salvesen & Co. of 14. 10. 39. 3.  
Telegram from Chr. Salvesen 16. 10. 39. 4

re. Army Service Corps

To note wages increased  
5% bonus minimum 20%.

MCH  
C.S.  
16. X. 39.

5. List of names of persons who have volunteered for whaling work at S. Georgia.

P.C. Defence Force.

The Agric. Adviser handed me the enclosed list and stated that you had informed him that some of the persons whose names are on the list could not be released. I do not know if the 6 men are in the Force or not but unless they are "key" men it is essential that they should go to S. Georgia. No doubt others for military duties can be obtained in their place.

2. The Imperial Govt. attaches very great importance to the production of whale oil and in order to obtain the best results the volunteers for whaling is the best man to send - men sent under compulsion are not satisfactory.

3. The remaining 5 men

are to be obtained from  
the Camp farms.

Lt. In Lt Messrs  
Salvesen ask for confirmation  
so there must be no  
hitch.

WCH  
cl.  
18. x. 39.

Hon: Col: Secretary.

The six men reported to Agre: Adonis as being  
unavailable for whaling are all on active duty  
with the Force & cannot be spared unless further  
guards or posts are withdrawn. For your  
information I could only find men ~~for release~~ to  
replace those to be released to you & the new guns crews  
by recommending H.E. to withdraw one post. There are  
no further men available unless those discharged  
as "key men" are recalled to the Force.

I fully realize the importance of whaling in  
the Imperial scheme of things & will willingly release  
these six men if six others can be produced from  
the civil population.

WCH  
18. x. 39

Off: Defence Force.

I understand that a minute  
has been addressed to you today  
by the Governor regarding Camp  
members of the Force. Some of  
the men on the list could be  
replaced by men from the Camp.

Hon: Col: Secretary.

WCH  
18. x. 39.

You H.E. has been of immense help in getting extra men  
from Camps. Subject to arrival the force at least of the six  
could be spared.

C.S.O. No. .... 5/40/39

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. .... 2

Agric. Adviser.

How does this matter stand please? Will 25 men be available for Mr. Salvesen. You will note the increase referred to in L.

MCH  
21. X. 39.

Hon. Col. Sec.

In my opinion 25 volunteers will be available in time for sailing of Lofonia. I should be in a position to furnish you with a complete list of names on Friday morning following the medical examination which will be carried out on Thursday night 26<sup>th</sup> instant.

Dean  
AA-24/10/39

6. Telegram to Chr. Salvesen, Lofth of 24/10/39

Extract from telegram of 25<sup>th</sup> October 1939 to Col. Sec. from Managers Pebble Island.

I strongly protest against local labours being sent South while farms man Coast watching stations.  
Managers Dean Boos.

Adviser }  
R.A.S.C. }

Presumably you got the  
required number and they will  
be ready to sail for South  
Georgia.

Verified  
Verbally.

MESH  
C

27. x. 59.

Exchange of Correspondence re: Labourers for South Georgia. 7-8.

MESH

Extract from letter from Manager,  
Fovea Bay E. Station of 28. x. 59.

(9)

Submitted. It is doubtful  
whether farms would have been  
prepared to take any of the  
men who took whaling work.

MESH  
C

24. x. 59.

If the main objection is as  
stated Mr. W.H.C. can be told  
that the men were not sent  
for Imperial reasons after <sup>this</sup> <sup>Sw?</sup>  
had refused the request of the  
Companies. But I have never  
yet seen such a non sequitur  
as in (9)

ttttt 24/10/39

Letter to Mr. W.H. Clement 2. xii. 59. 10

TELEGRAM.

From The Secretary of State

To His Excellency the Governor.

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Despatched: London 9.10. 19<sup>39</sup> Time: 1950  
Received: 19 Time:

No.79. Secret.

1. Understand that Salvessen have been informed that owing to the war no Falkland Island labourers will be available for whaling work during the forthcoming season. Company state it will probably be impossible to arrange for accomodation for additional personnel from this country and ask that decision should if possible be revoked.
2. I recognise the strain which Defence preparations must throw on local man-power but you will appreciate that for Imperial purposes we are anxious to increase Whale Oil production by British Companies.
3. Grateful for your observations as soon as possible. If men can be made available please telegraph number.
4. Understand that you have hitherto enforced requirements of Section 92 Merchant Shipping Act in respect of Whaling Expeditions in South Georgia. Requirements are however being waived here. May I assume that you will do likewise in view of the importance of not hindering Whaling Expeditions at the present time ?

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

TELEGRAM. Sent.

From His Excellency The Governor

To The Secretary of State.

Despatched Stanley. Time 15.30. Date 11/10/39.

No. 95. Secret.

1. Your telegram No. 79 Secret I will arrange for 25 men from here for whaling work at Leith Harbour. Salvesen must pay for passages from Colony and return.
2. I am acceding to the release of man power with reluctance for reasons which will be evident from my next following telegram.
3. Legislative provision in Merchant Shipping Act referred to by you will not be enforced.

Governor.



DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

*From* The Colonial Secretary.

*To* Messrs Chr. Salvesen & Co. Leith.

*Despatched* : 14th October, 19 39 *Time* : 11.30.

*Received* : ... .. 19 ... *Time* : ...

It is hoped to send to South Georgia about the end of October if that is suitable 25 men provided you agree to refund to the Government the cost of their passages there and back. Total cost of passages about £225

Colonial Secretary

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From Messrs Chr. Salvesen & Co. Leith.

To The Colonial Secretary.

Despatched: 16th October, 1939 Time: 18.45.

Received: 17th October, 1939 Time: 12.10.

Telegram 14/10 received send twenty five falklanders end of October agree passage money stop wages increased five bonus minimum 20% stop telegraph confirmation.

Messrs Salvesen

SALVESEN.

Your letter  
16 October  
wholly satisfactory  
confirmed  
C.S.

122/37.

5 (P)

LIST OF VOLUNTEERS FOR WHALING 1939/40 SEASON.

1. E. Goodwin *Not available.*
2. J. Bundes
3. R. Grant
4. C. Bundes
5. K. Lindenberg
6. Alf. Smith
7. W. Watts
8. C. Harrison
9. S. Bonner
10. J. White
11. A. Jacobsen
12. Les. Biggs
13. S. Berntsen
14. W. Neilson
15. B.L. Biggs
16. I. Jones
17. W. Ratcliffe
18. T. Lee
19. L. Summers
20. G. Harrison

*Note - D. Kennard told me today that  
Goodwin is now available.*

*BAW  
24/10/39*

6.

☪ DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

*From* The Colonial Secretary.

*To* Messrs Chr. Salvesen. Leith.

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*Despatched* : 24th October, 19 39 *Time* : ....

*Received* : ... .. 19 ... *Time* : ....

Your telegram 16th October whaling labourers confirmed.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

25th October, 39.

Agricultural Adviser,

Commanding Officer,

Falkland Islands Defence Force  
 STANLEY.

A list of the names of Falkland Islanders who have volunteered for Whaling work at South Georgia during the forthcoming season is herounder. It is likely that the "Lafonia" will leave for South Georgia before making her coast-wise voyage.

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| B. Goodwin    | W. Neilson    |
| J. Bundes     | B.L. Biggs    |
| C. Bundes     | I. Jones      |
| R. Grant      | W. Batcliffe  |
| K. Lindenberg | T. Lee        |
| Alf. Smith    | L. Summers    |
| W. Watts      | G. Harrison   |
| G. Harrison   | J.A. Kirk     |
| S. Bonner     | T. Lindenberg |
| A. Jacobson   | B. Hardy      |
| Les Biggs     | R. Courtney   |
| S. Berntsen   | Joe Browning  |

Note :- This is one less than the required number of 25.

*D. W. W.*  
Agricultural Adviser.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Copy for your information.

*D. W. W.*

②

27th October, 39.

Commandant,  
Internment Camp,

Commanding Officer,  
Falkland Islands Defence Force,

STANLEY.

Reference yours of 26th instant, the following men of the Internment Guard, who have volunteered for Whaling work will leave for South Georgia by the s.s. "LaFonia", thus reducing the number of the Guard by four.

Private R. Grant  
" C. Harvison  
" I. Jones  
" J. A. Kirk

*Darwin*  
Captain,  
Commandant,  
Internment Camp.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Copy for your information.

*to AM*

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM THE MANAGER, FOX BAY EAST, DATED  
THE 28th OCTOBER, 1939.

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It would seem that the main objection to the German  
prisoners coming here, as voiced by the men working on  
this Station, is that a rumour has spread that there are  
men going to South Georgia for the whaling season,  
and the camps are to be left to get along as best  
they can.

I cannot think that the rumour is true, or that  
the Government has so little regard for the farming  
industry, as to let potential labour leave these  
Islands for employment elsewhere, when they might  
be employed with greater advantage to the farms.

(sgd) W.H.CLEMENT.

S/40/1939

2nd December

39

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 28th October, 1939, on the subject of the employment at South Georgia of Falkland Islands labour, I am directed to inform you that the men were sent to South Georgia for Imperial reasons after this Government had refused the request of the Companies.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*HCH*

Colonial Secretary.

W.H.CLEMENT, ESQ.

MANAGER,

PACKE BROTHERS & CO, Ltd.

FOX BAY E.