

C.S.

WRECKS.

1920.

SHI/VES/2 # 27

No. 701

F. Barnes.

SUBJECT.

1920

13th September

Previous Paper.

534/20

Applies to purchase wreckage on the beach between Fox Bay Point and Elephant Island.

MINUTES.

Receiver of Wrecks, (1)

Will you kindly remark on the attached application.

*G.R.B.*  
for C. S.  
17/9/20.

Hon. Col. Secty, (2)

What wreckage does applicant refer to. At the points mentioned, Fox Point and Elephant Island, Mare Harbour, I believe there were two wrecks the "St. Mary" and the "Bertha". There was some correspondence in 1919 concerning the last named vessel, this you will find in your Office.

2. I am afraid we cannot sell wreckage from the vessels in question as I understand that the wrecks were purchased by the Falkland Islands Co, Ltd.

3. If the Wrecks have passed to the Crown through the passing of time and the inability of the purchasers to work them, then I think that the wreckage should be sold by Public Auction. The "Bertha" had a valuable cargo of timber such as rosewood, mahogany &c, but the correspondence mentioned above will show the position regarding this wreckage.

*M. Angus Barker*

(3) Ag. Receiver of Wrecks  
Sepbr 17th 1920

Subsequent Paper.

H. E.

(Reply saying that if the applicant refers to the wreckage of the above vessels, the Government have not same at their disposal.

*G.R.B.*  
*for C.S.*  
18/9/20

C.S.O.

(4)

Find out, first, if the F.I.C.  
lay any claim to these wrecks.  
If so, on what grounds?

W.D.M.  
21.9.20

(5)

H. E.

From the attached letter the F. I. C. do not seem willing to relinquish their claim to the "Bertha". As regards the ownership of the "St: Mary" Mrs, Geo: Hallett, the executrix of Mr. Hallett's estate left the Colony by the "Orita" in August last, and it is improbable that any further claim will be made in respect of this wreckage.

G.L.13  
for C. S.  
27/10/20.

(6)

C.S.O.  
Please ask Mr. Barnes to specify  
the wrecks he refers to.

W.D.M.  
28.10.20

(7)

Letter to Mr. Barnes of the 2nd Nov 1920

P.A.  
22/1/20.

13/9/20

Port Stanley  
G. I.  
To Colonial Secretary

Sir

I'm applying to buy the wreckage on the  
beach between Fox point and Elephant  
Island off. More Harbour. Rancho.

I am yours.

Frank Barnes.

901  
854/20.

26th October,

20.

Sir,

I am directed by the Administrator to ascertain if your Company still lay any claim to the wrecks of the "Tertho" and the "St. Mary" at Fox Point and Elephant Island, Mero Harbour, and if so on what grounds.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*G.R.L.B.*  
for Colonial Secretary.

The Manager,

The Falkland Islands Company, Ltd.,

Stanley.

The Falkland Islands Company Limited,  
Stanley,

27th October, 1920.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter No.554/20 of the 26th instant, on the subject of the wrecks "Bertha" and "St.Mary".

2. With regard to the former, this Company's title to the ownership of the wreck has been explained in Mr Houston's letters of the 2nd and 12th October, 1917, but I may state briefly its history.

3. The "Bertha" went ashore at Fox Point about the 12th October, 1892. The Government schooner "Hadassah" was despatched immediately, with the Agent of the Hamburg Underwriters, to offer assistance to the Master, but she was ashore in such a dangerous and exposed position that there was no prospect of saving the vessel, and the Master decided to sell both ship and cargo. The property was put up to auction on the 27th October, and purchased by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd, the Bills of Lading for the cargo being endorsed to the Company.

4. Our claim to the property is, shortly, that we bought and paid for it, and we maintain our right to deal with it. The position taken up in para. 2. of the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 9th October, 1917 seems to be quite untenable; we have never "abandoned" the wreck, and have

The Honourable

The COLONIAL SECRETARY.

asserted our claim to it whenever the same has been called in question. The attempts made at different times to bring the cargo to Stanley have been abortive by reason of the exposed position, and the fact that hitherto the only practicable method of getting the wood out of the ship was by blowing her up with explosives. Now, however, that the cargo is working out of her, we propose to move the same to some convenient place for shipping - probably in Mare Harbour, and we are having a special timber carrier constructed in England for this purpose.

5. The "St.Mary" was wrecked in 1890. As she was an American vessel the wreck was under the charge of the United States Consul, who arranged for the salvage of whatever cargo was possible. After this had been effected, the ship and remainder of the cargo was sold by auction on the 24th February, 1891, the purchaser being, I understand, the late Mr George Hallett. My Company consequently has not at any time had any claim whatever to this vessel.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

  
Manager.

701/20.

3rd November,

20.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 18th September, 1920, I am directed by the Administrator to ask you to specify to what ships the wreckage you refer to belongs.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



For Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Frank Hannes,

Port Stanley.