

C.S.

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

1928

SHI/VES/13 # 26

No.

10/28

Chief Constable

SUBJECT.

1928

May 2nd

Previous Paper.

Behaviour of Officers and Crew  
of R. S. S. 'William Scovell'

MINUTES.

- 1-4 Report by Chief Constable 2nd May, 1928  
with reports by Constables Hooley, Earl  
and Swain.
- 5 Statement by Mr A. J. Blewett 2nd May 1928
- 6 Statement by Mr L. Aldridge 2nd May 1928
- 7 Statement by Mr A. E. Rutcliffe 2nd May 1928
- 8 Statement by Mr A. R. Moore 2nd May 1928.
- 9 Letter from Commander Lamotte. 2nd May 1928
- 10 Letter to Commander Lamotte 2nd May 1928
- 11-12 Telegram to Secretary of State 2nd May 1928
- 13-14 memo. from Coole. 3rd May, 1928.
- 15-16. memo. to Keeper of Lead. 4th May, 1928.
- 17. telegram to Secretary of State, 4/5/28.
- 18-19 Memo from Magistrates, South Devon 2/5/28

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3 <sup>rd</sup> paper wrk from C/2 Lamotte 15/5/28 <small>Am C.S.</small>	24
These resolutions are included. I have added to you re despatch for S of S.	
<u>21-28</u> All.	
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1.5.28

Police Station  
Stanley

(1)

Sir

At or about 1-45<sup>PM</sup> this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May  
I was at the corner of Barrack St. & Ross Rd.  
when I noticed 3 men come out of the Ship Hotel.  
One had no hat on, & wore light breeches.  
The other two wore dark clothes, seemed to be  
uniform. what drew my attention to these men  
was the way all three came out together, and  
looked a little unsteady at first, but after  
walking a little way, they went steadily  
& straight, towards the F. S. Co. West Store.  
I asked Mr. A. Ratcliffe who these men were,  
as he had passed them on Ross Rd., his reply  
was some of the Scoresby fellows, John & J.  
Pease, stating that quite a few had gone  
in the Ship Hotel earlier

I am Sir  
your obedient servant  
Supt. Constable Hooley

To

Chief Constable  
Stanley

Police Station

Stanley

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1928.

To. Chief Constable.

Sir.

On the afternoon of May 1<sup>st</sup> 1928 I saw two of the Scientists, Marr & Johns & 5 members of the crew R. S. S. William Scoresby very drunk, but with the exception of J. Sutherland none of them gave any trouble or interfered with anyone to my knowledge, some of the crew were improperly dressed & very untidy

I am Sir

your obedient servant

R. H. Carl.

4  
To

Police Station (3)

Chief Constable

2-5-28.

Sir while attending to J. Sutherland  
this morning he remarked to me that he was at the  
Stanley Arms drinking with the Chief Officers Chief  
Scientist, but from there on he remembers nothing  
what happened

I remain Sir

your Obedient

Servant

E. Swan

(4)

111

Police Station

2-5-28

Hon Col Sect

sir,

On the 1<sup>st</sup> inst the "R. S. S. William Sturby" arrived in Port Stanley and moored alongside the Dockyard jetty about 11 a.m., shortly afterwards some of the Officers and crew proceeded on shore, from reports made to me by the Police several of these men were drunk around the Town during the afternoon, Mr. Johns the scientist being one and also Mr. Pease at about 4 p.m. an artificer named Sutherland was locked up for assaulting Const Earl in the execution of his duty, this man's language was disgraceful in the F. I. Co. millinery store from which place he was apprehended, various members of the crew were on shore improperly dressed, Sutherland who was apprehended had been drinking in the Stanley Arms with the Chief Officer and Senior Scientist.

I observed at 3 p.m. two members of the crew going down the Dockyard jetty they were both drunk, in fact one fell down and had to be helped on board.

At 10.30 I visited the Dockyard jetty and was invited on board by the Chief Officer to hear complaint about a watch being stolen from a member of the crew, the Chief Engineer spoke abruptly to the Chief Officer with reference to bringing the Police on board, the Chief Engineer remarking that the ship would become a nuisance to the Colony, we were invited to have a drink, but refused remarking we had our rounds to do, Senior Const Hooly and Const Westall was with me at the time.

from the noises of loud speaking in the Ward  
room - at the time it would remind me of a  
Second Class Public House.

no later than 12.40. p m today the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst I saw  
from Ross Road one of the sailors being  
carried on board shoulders high by two of  
~~his~~ his comrades; he was drunk. Mr John's  
the scientist was on the road at the time,  
I drew his attention to it and I remarked  
this conduct was disgraceful.

In conclusion Sir, were Officers and men  
drunk in Public Houses together such familiarity  
breeds contempt, and where such exists I am  
of the opinion from my own Naval experience  
that it shows a great lack of discipline,  
attached reports from Senior Const. Hooley  
Const Earl and Const Swain.

I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant  
O'Sullivan  
Chief Constable

IV

1, 1/2 (Mother) (Mother & least, solemnly  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. add.  
office that about three o'clock A.M. I was

& the pond of the White Swan's

office at I saw one man who

I believe to be W. Pease stopping

down the dockyard jetty: when he

got near the woodwork he held on

to the rails of the jetty for just

a pause at then he came on

forward the area "William Scowby". He

retained a <sup>short</sup> <sub>very</sub> <sup>time</sup> after: he was

having his arms in the air at

stopping about the jetty. He eventually

came up the jetty at I lost sight

of his. He appeared to me to be

in a very intoxicated condition.

(nearly) afterwards another man

appeared on the jetty in uniform - He

was stepping about my bath for one

side of the jetty to the other - as if

he held on to the rails several

times - went over the second time,

at which time he was about where he

looked over he fell heavily on the

jetty. He stayed there for a minute or so

and then proceeded down the jetty on

He appeared to be absolutely drunk.

his back at knees of But if he

but I saw of him - I have no idea

who he was but he was certainly

in uniform at was wearing an overcoat

(Signed) A.S. Stewart.

W. Stewart

Before me

2nd May, 1924.

V

(6)

1, Lawrence Aldridge, solemnly officiated that

at about 2 o'clock on May 11<sup>th</sup> by the

Sweetshop corner on John Street (paved

with concrete) where at Chamber's House in

company of a few men dressed in a dull green

"plum-press" suit and of tall stature.

In my opinion he was under the

influence of liquor. He was talking and

laughing loudly all the time and he

appeared to be talking nonsense. I do

not know who he was.

About 3 o'clock on the same

day I was in the Col. Lewis office and

I happened to glance out of the window

and I saw a man - Mr. Pearce -

frig done the petty. He went to the end  
of the petty at the club & much afterwards  
he came back again. I saw him stopping  
several times on the petty with frig done  
at wing back like a man <sup>under</sup> the influence  
of drink. I had but see him fall down.

(Signed) W. P. H. H. H.

Before me J. M. H.

W. H. H.

27 May, 1920.

I, Albert Edward Roberts, solemnly affirm

that about twenty minutes to two or the

1st May I was taking to Senior Liddle

Horley at the corner of Banned Street

by the Town Hall and we saw three

men - I think they were W<sup>ts</sup> John W.

News and I could not say what

the third was - or their road down

by Stanley Cottage. They were talking

about the road and seemed to have

had no need to drink.

That an hour later I saw

W<sup>ts</sup> Pearce going down ~~the~~ ~~alley~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~subject~~  
at the top end of the jetty in the direction

"William Scowth" etc: I was up in the

front story then she to panel. He

Seemed to have had too much to drink.

There was blood coming from his nose. He

was not walking straight but like a man

intoxicated. He was staggering but he did

not fall down. I did not see <sup>him</sup> go up

the jelly after he had passed the falling

short.

(Signed) A. C. Ratcliffe

before me J. W. Miller

Attest

27 Aug, 1927.

1, Arthur Washburn House, 1822

about  
that at 7 pm next to two on the

1st May a Mr. Hooley for the mess.

William J. Hooley - when I had not met

previously called at my house at

without coming in accompanied my wife

at myself at daylight down to the

School - His name struck me as

known at an unnecessary expense but

having never met Mr. Hooley before I can

form no judgment as to whether his name

then was different from his usual name.

The idea of his being drunk never

entered my head until put to me by

the school teacher at the time of

making this statement

William J. Hooley  
before me  
Hooley, May 2nd.

Priste and Confidential

9



R.S.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY,  
C/O FOREIGN FLEET DIVISION,  
G. P. O. LONDON.

May 2nd 1928

Dear Mr. Ellis,

Re James Sutherland, Artificer Engineer of William Scoresby, sentenced today to two months hard labour by the local Magistrate.

Mr. Roy the Chief Engineer of William Scoresby who made an appeal on behalf of Sutherland in Court has since had an interview with the Magistrate who sentenced Sutherland and was informed as follows.

That an appeal can be made to His Excellency the Governor for a review of the sentence passed on J. Sutherland.

Taking into consideration the amount of work requiring to be done in the Engine Room Department of this ship during our stay in Stanley it would be to the great advantage of the Service if this man's sentence could be changed to a fine so as to allow his services to be utilised on board.

Will you please advise me as to the advisability of making this appeal to His Excellency the Governor.

Yours Sincerely

*Robert Larnette*

2nd May,

28.

Dear Commander Lamotte,

In reply to your letter of today's date I fear that it is difficult for me to advise you to appeal to the Governor in the case of James Sutherland, the Artificer Engineer of the R.S.S. "William Scoresby", who has been sentenced to two months hard labour by the Magistrate for being drunk and assaulting the police.

In view of the serious nature of the charge and of the direct finding of the criminal court I doubt very much whether His Excellency would see sufficient reason to interfere with the normal course of justice.

I appreciate that inconvenience may be caused to your Engine Room Department. On the other hand you will no doubt realize the grave anxiety which this unhappy affair has caused to the Government of the Colony.

It is of course entirely open to James Sutherland to appeal against the sentence passed on him if he so wishes.

Yours sincerely,



COMMANDER H de G. LAMOTTE, D.S.O., R.N. (Retd.)  
R.S.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY",  
STANLEY.

DECODE.

121

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor,

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Despatched : 2nd May, 1928. Time : 21.00.

Received : 1928 Time :

CHAPELRIES,

LONDON.

Urgent and confidential. Regret to report that on arrival on William Scoresby at Stanley 11 a.m. May 1st disgraceful incidents have occurred which reveal total lack of discipline on board vessel. Officers and men proceeded forthwith to drink together in public bars and within six hours of entering port the greater part of the personnel including John Senior Scientist Marr Scientist Horley Second Officer and Pease Cadet Officer were drunk or badly under the influence of drink in broad daylight in the streets of Stanley while Sutherland Artificer Engineer was arrested and May 2nd sentenced two months hard labour for being drunk and assaulting the police. General appearance of crew is slovenly and Lamotte himself shows want of manners in his dealings with the Colonial Secretary. When spoken to by the latter in this connection he stated that "not being under the Naval Discipline Act he did not see what efficient steps he could take to prevent his men getting drunk when on liberty." Following on reports received from South Georgia as to drunkenness on board vessel and on accident in striking rock from the blame of which I cannot/

DECODE.

- 2 -

11

TELEGRAM.

*From* His Excellency the Governor,

*To* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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*Despatched* : 2nd May, 1928. *Time* : 21.00.

*Received* : 192 *Time* :

cannot exonerate him I consider Lamotte absolutely unfitted to remain in command of vessel. I ask for authority therefore to relieve him of command immediately in favour of Shannon first officer. The serious public scandal already caused throughout the Colony by these incidents is particularly worrying to me in view of the great improvement in tone which I have succeeded in effecting. Despatch follows.

GOVERNOR.

3/5/28

H.M. Prison

(13)

Stanley

Sir.

I James Sutherland was on the first day of May sentenced to 2 months hard labour for assaulting a constable for which I pleaded guilty and I regret same. This being my first offence. I would esteem it an act of kindness if you would consider my future & remit my present sentence to a fine as my prospects for the future were very promising. I had the offer of a position with the Vacuum Oil Company at Singapore when finished with this commission Hoping Sir, this my appeal will receive your kind consideration. I am

Sir

Respectfully Yours

James Sutherland

To Chief Constable

For Honourable Colonial Secretary.

Police Station

3-5-28

Hon

Col Sect.

Sir,

I beg to submit a letter from prisoner Sutherland of the P.S.S. William Scorsby at present under sentence for two months hard labour from May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Stanley Prison.

I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant  
W. J. Sullivan  
Chief Constable  
Gaoler

Y.2

Subst. I will reply that I regret that it is not within my powers to concede to his petition asking that the same time that it is always open to him to lodge an appeal against the sentence passed on him by the Magistrate but before the Supreme Court of the Colony.

J.S.

3.5.28.

It is all very  
Sincerely,  
C.S.  
Please.  
A.H.  
(3/5/28)

c/10/28.

151

4th May, 28.

TO CONVICT JAMES SUTHERLAND,  
STANLEY GAOL.

In reply to your petition of the 3rd of May, 1928, I regret to inform you that it is not within my powers to accede to your petition but that it is always open to you to lodge an appeal against the sentence passed on you by the Magisterial Court before the Supreme Court of the Colony.



Colonial Secretary.

No. C/10/28.

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

MINUTE.

16

4th May, 19 28.

*From*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

*To* The Keeper of the Gaol,

Stanley.

With reference to your minute of the 3rd of May, 1928,

4th May,  
1928.

I have the honour to request that you will deliver the attached communication to James Sutherland, prisoner in the Stanley Gaol.

*J. A. I. Stewart.*  
Colonial Secretary.

C/10/28.

17

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor,

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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Despatched: 4th May, 1928. Time: 11.40.

Received: 192 Time:

CHAPLINS,  
LONDON.

Confidential in continuation of my telegram of 2nd May confidential Lamotte has now approached Colonial Secretary with object of taking steps to terminate appointment of Horley Second Officer on grounds of excessive drinking. He states that he has been obliged at first to limit amount of this officer's wine bill and subsequently to prohibit him from being supplied with drink on board. Submit that I should be authorized if on investigation I find case substantiated forthwith to determine Horley's engagement by giving him three months' salary and a free passage to England by next boat in accordance with paragraph 5 of his letter of appointment see enclosure in your despatch No. 10 of 7th January 1928.

GOVERNOR.

WEDNESDAY, 2nd May 1928 at 10.30 a.m.

Charge: Drunk and assaulting Constable R.H. Earl in the execution of his duty at about 4.15 p.m. on the 1st May 1928.

Plea: In answer to the Court, accused stated he could not remember what he did.

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In answer to the Court, accused stated that he was an Artificer Engineer on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby".

---

Richard Henry Earl, sworn. I am a Police Constable. I was on duty on the 1st May 1928. At about 10 minutes past four p.m., I saw the accused in Ross Road. Accused was drunk and was interfering with a dog belonging to the wife of the Ag. Colonial Surgeon. I warned the accused and told him to go on board his ship and have a sleep. Accused replied "Alright Mr. Hooley I will take your advice". I then left accused and returned to the Police Station. On entering the Station the telephone rang I answered it and was told that a Constable was wanted at the F.I. Co's Millinery Store. I went down there at once. When I got there I saw the accused inside the Porch of the Millinery Store and he had the dog belonging to Mrs. Jones under his arm. I asked accused to put the dog down but he defied me to take it from him. I took the dog from accused and in doing so accused partly sat down against the wall of the porch. While I was taking the dog accused struck at me and said take that you bastard. Accused struck me on the mouth. I got the dog away and accused got up and commenced to fight me inside the Millinery Store. Accused was using foul language and there were some ladies in the Store at the time

In order to get accused out of the Millinery store I had to hit him out as I could not get hold of him. After getting accused out he still resisted me and Captain Wethercoate, Maurice Evans and Mr. Byron came to my assistance. We then got accused to the Police Station. Accused was very violent and was kicking when we got hold of him.

---

In answer to the Court, accused had to no questions to put to witness and had nothing to say in answer to the charge beyond that he could not remember anything.

---

Court pointed out that it was a most serious offence to assault and resist a Constable in the execution of his duty and that the peace of the community could not be disturbed by persons coming on shore and behaving as accused had done. Such actions must be stopped.

Court ordered accused for the said offence to be kept to hard labour for a period of two months.

At this point the Chief Engineer of the R.S.S. 'William Scoresby' appealed to the Court to levy a fine in lieu of imprisonment as accused was required on board the ship. The Chief Engineer pointed out that accused had been 20 days at sea and was the victim of the strong beer obtained here.

Court, in reply, stated the sentence must stand but that appeal could be made through the usual channel to His Excellency the Governor.

*M. Francis Harker*  
Magistrate.

No.

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

MINUTE.

19

2nd May 19 28

From

Actg. Magistrate  
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To Hon. Colonial Secretary

Stanley.

Hon. Col. Sec,

As I understand that an appeal will be made in the case Police v. J. Sutherland, an Artificer Engineer on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby", I beg to transmit herewith a copy of the Notes of the Police Court proceedings.

*M. Brian Walker*

Magistrate.

VIII.  
Honourable Colonial Secretary

20

I have the honour to state that on the 1st of May the day the R.S. 'Williami Scorsby' arrived at Stanley I met a man in John Street who was a stranger to me, as I was going home to lunch. This man was wearing a bowler hat and an overcoat with collar turned up but open at the neck and I could see he had no collar. His clothes were good but his appearance was most untidy and he was bleary eyed. He appeared to have been drinking but he was not drunk. At that time I had not met Mr. Roy the Chief Engineer of the 'Scorsby' but I did so the day after when he was in uniform. I recognized him as the man I had seen in John Street but as I have been mistaken I should like to make certain that Mr. Roy was in civilian dress on the day in question. before I swear to it.

J. H. Brown

4<sup>th</sup> May 1928

Mr. O'Sullivan has informed me that he has seen Mr. Roy dressed in the clothes I have described above but not on the day in question. On that occasion he wore a collar and was gentlemanly in appearance. I have now no doubt that the man I saw on the 1st of May was Mr. Roy.

J. H. Brown 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1928

C/10/28.

22

CODE.

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor,

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Despatched: 14th May, 1928. Time: 17.00.

Received: 192 Time:

CHAPELRIES,  
LONDON.

Confidential your telegram 10th May confidential Sutherland was seen by Police Constable Earl about 4 p.m. drunk in street and interfering with dog belonging to Mrs. Jones wife of Assistant Colonial Surgeon and was warned to go back to his ship and have a sleep. He appeared to take this warning in good part and Earl proceeded to Police Station on entering which he was summoned by telephone to Millinery Store where he found Sutherland with dog under arm. Earl intervened and Sutherland struck him on mouth and began to fight him using filthy language in presence of ladies. He resisted arrest and became very violent requiring four men to take him to Police Station. On appeal to me as Chief Justice on May 7th I reduced sentence passed by Magistrate from 2 months hard labour to a fine of £5 on payment of which Sutherland was released the same day. I do not consider sentence of Magistrate in any degree too severe for offence committed but in view of Sutherland's excellent record in the past I did not wish to mar his whole future by enforcing sentence of imprisonment. Full despatch follows by next mail. Request that you authorise me to give instructions to Lamotte that William Scoresby should remain at Stanley pending decision in regard to himself and Horley. Am more than ever convinced of Lamotte's unfitness to command and consider

it

5/10/28.

21

CODE.

TELEGRAM.

*From* His Excellency the Governor,

*To* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

---

*Despatched*: 11th May, 1928. *Time*: 17.00.

*Received*: 1928 *Time*:

it positively unsafe that vessel should be at sea  
in these waters during winter with present personnel  
see my telegram 23rd March confidential.

GOVERNOR.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

14th May, 1928.

Dear Captain Lamotte,

I have made known the substance of our conversation of this morning to the Governor. His Excellency would be glad if you will let me have a further report in writing as to Horley's conduct in amplification of your previous report so that the case may be proved as fully as possible.

I think on more mature consideration that it would be a graceful act on your part and that His Excellency would appreciate it if you were to write in as you suggested thanking His Excellency on behalf of the ship for the leniency extended to Sutherland.

Yours sincerely,

Commander H. de G. Lamotte,  
D.S.O., R.N. (Retd)

R.S.S. "William Scoresby"

STANLEY.

24

R.S.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY,

c/o FOREIGN FLEET DIVISION,

G.P.O. LONDON.



15th May 1928

Commander H.de G. Lamotte presents his compliments to His Excellency the Governor and wishes to thank him on behalf of himself, Officers, Scientists and Men of the R.S.S. William Scoresby for the leniency recently shown by His Excellency the Governor to one of the Ships Company.

*H. S. S.  
R. S. S. William Scoresby  
16/5-28. H.*

C/10/28.

25

TELEGRAM.*From*.....The Secretary of State for the Colonies,*To*.....His Excellency the Governor,*Despatched*: 21st May, 1928. *Time*: 12.15.*Received*: 22nd May, 1928. *Time*: 11.00

GOVERNOR,

PORTSTAINLY.

Confidential. Your telegram of 2nd May your telegram of 12th May charge against personnel "William Scoresby." I have received copy of report of the Court of Enquiry held by the Magistrate at South Georgia on 10th April and I am advised that report shows no ground which would justify me in relieving Lamotte of his command. As regards question of discipline on vessel you should furnish Lamotte with full grounds of complaint in writing and obtain his written explanation and forward it to me. As regards Horley I approve proposal in your telegram of 4th May confidential provided that Lamotte concurs. If you think it necessary to press complaint against others you should furnish John with ground of complaint against him and Marr in writing and require him to give their written explanations and similarly obtain written report from Lamotte as regards Pease forwarding replies to me. Lamotte is being instructed to report on the conduct and efficiency of Sutherland. I am advised that Scoresby has performed admirable scientific work during her season at South Georgia and should greatly regret if these incidents should cause any interruption of that work.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

CODE.

3/10/28

26

TELEGRAM.

*From* His Excellency the Governor,

*To* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

*Despatched:* 23rd May, 1928. *Time:*

*Received:* 1928. *Time:*

CHAPELRIE,  
LONDON.

Confidential your telegram 21st May confidential submit finding of court of enquiry held by Magistrate on accident to William Scoresby is not justified by evidence taken see my despatch 13th May confidential being forwarded by mail of 28th May. Respectfully beg to state that I cannot hold myself responsible for any untoward incident which may happen to vessel while under present command. Full report in this connection together with statements in writing will be forwarded also by mail of 28th May. As regards Horley with concurrence of Lamotte I am taking action to make investigation proposed. Do not consider it necessary to press complaint against others including John Marr and Pease as they have expressed every contrition and made full apology for their conduct. Should be grateful if I may be informed on what authority statement has been made to you that Scoresby has performed admirable scientific work during her season at South Georgia in view of the fact that John has stated to me personally that great number of stations made are of very doubtful value on account of uncertainty as to their location due to faulty navigation of vessel.

GOVERNOR.

R.S.S. William Scoresby

Port Stanley

May 23rd 1920

His Excellency  
The Governor

Your Excellency,

I have received a telegram from the Secretary  
Discovery Committee of which the following is a translation:-

"Governor is Crown Agents for the Colonies  
state of the discipline on William Scoresby  
and the Committee understand he will  
furnish you with grounds for complaint in  
writing Fullstop You should furnish Governor  
with such explanations as he requires Fullstop  
These explanations will be forwarded to  
Committee through the Secretary of State Fullstop  
In view of the recent conviction Sutherland  
Committee request you will furnish them report  
on his conduct Fullstop Governor will communicate  
with you regarding case of Horley Fullstop  
Committee have agreed to determine his engagement  
provided Governor and yourself concur."

I request you will furnish me with the grounds  
of complaint against the discipline of the William Scoresby so  
that I may furnish the explanation required also details of

charges and convictions in the local Courts against Artificer Engineer Sutherland.

With reference to Lieut. Commander Morley I concur in his engagement being terminated.

I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant



Commanding Officer

C/10/28.

23rd May, 28.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 23rd of May, 1928, I am directed by the Governor to acquaint you with the following grounds of complaint held by His Excellency in regard to the state of discipline on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby".

- (i) The correspondence which has been submitted to the Governor in the case of Lieutenant Commander K. Horley, R.N. (Retd.) and which has been seen in full by you reveals a general lack of good order and discipline as prevailing on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby"; and
- (ii) The incidents which occurred on the arrival of the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" at Stanley on the 1st of May, 1928, when officers and men of the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" proceeded forthwith to drink together in public bars with the result that many of them within six hours of such arrival were drunk or badly under the influence of drink in the streets of Stanley in broad daylight thus giving rise to serious public scandal reveal a general

lack/

COMMANDER H. de. G. LAMOTTE, D.S.O., R.N., (Retd.)  
R. S. S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY",  
STANLEY.

lack of good order and discipline as prevailing on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby".

2. I am to request you to furnish me with your written explanation in the matter for transmission by His Excellency to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

3. I am to add that I am forwarding to you under separate cover a copy of proceedings in the Magistrate's Court in the case of Engineer Artificer J. Sutherland.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.

31

JH

C/10/28.

CONFIDENTIAL.

23rd May,

28.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of even number and date I am directed by the Governor to forward to you a copy of the proceedings in the Magistrate's Court in the case of Engineer Artificer J. Sutherland of R.S.S. "William Scoresby".

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Colonial Secretary.

COMMANDER H. de G. LAMOTTE, D.S.O., R.N., (Retd.)  
R.S.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY",  
STANLEY.

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M 33

R.S.S. William Scoresby  
Port Stanley

May 2nd 1920

The Colonial Secretary  
Port Stanley

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 2nd May enumerating the grounds of complaint held by His Excellency the Governor in regard to the state of discipline on board R.S.S. William Scoresby and requesting me to furnish you with a written explanation thereof I submit the following:-

1. Lieut. Commander Morley's conduct has had nothing to do with the general discipline of the ship. His offences and conduct have been dealt with as they have come to my notice and you will observe that they have been cumulative. I regret the leniency with which I have dealt with this Officer but I have twice before made up my mind to take steps to obtain his relief, but on his plea to be given another chance I have reconsidered the matter.
2. The conduct of men ashore is no offence under the Merchant Shipping Act, under which the crew are serving, and therefore does not reflect on the discipline of the William Scoresby. The discipline on board is excellent.

As regards the 1st May there was no noise or disturbance of any sort on board the William Scoresby. A certain percentage of the crew returned on board under the influence of drink but returned to the ship quietly and created no disturbance on board.

As regards the Officers drinking with the men. These Officers went ashore together and had no intention of drinking with them, by chance men arrived in the same bar.

The Officers concerned desire me to express their regret for their conduct which they admit was thoughtless.

I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Commanding Officer

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R.S.S. William Scoresby  
Port Stanley

May 25th 1920

His Excellency  
The Governor

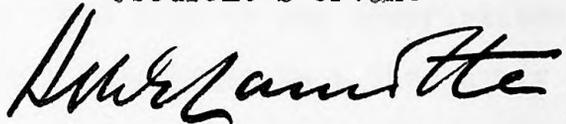
Your Excellency,

I forward herewith copy of report I am sending to the Discovery Committee as called for in their telegram of 21st inst.

I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant



Commanding Officer

COPY OF REPORT  
.....

Mr. Roy, Chief Engineer, reports as follows:-

" Since November 2nd 1928 J. Sutherland has been in charge of a steaming watch in the engine room and has proved himself to be absolutely trustworthy and efficient.

His mechanical ability is considerably above the average and I should have no hesitation in entrusting him with any class of repair work, without supervision.

He has at all times maintained the discipline of the engine room department and all orders from the bridge + myself have been carried out promptly and most efficiently"

I concur in Mr. Roy's report and from my own observations I can assure the Committee that Sutherland is a thoroughly trustworthy, hard working, and willing hand. He is always amongst the first to come on deck in his watch off and give a hand in any hard work going on. Only last night he was on shore and the weather conditions were such that I tried to get in touch with the Police to ask them to prevent any of our men making the attempt to come back to the ship. Sutherland knowing he was wanted for duty early obtained a small boat and came off by himself about 4 a.m.

On May 1st Sutherland was charged with being drunk and assaulting the police. Copy of proceedings are attached.

Sutherland had not had any leave for the previous 3

(34)

months and had just completed 20 days at sea under very bad conditions. We were "hove to" 7 days on this trip. This I think is some excuse for his conduct.

Sutherland appealed to His Excellency the Governor and the sentence was changed to a fine of £5. After Sutherland was sentenced I signed him off the articles, signing him on again when he was released. All adjustments in pay due to this absence will be adjusted in the William Scoresby, and I request that his allotment will not be changed.

I am Sir,

Etc.

C/10/28.

26th May, 28

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 25th of May, 1928, forwarding a copy of the report sent by you to the Discovery Committee in response to the request contained in their telegram of 21st May, 1928.

2. I am to inform you with regard to our conversation yesterday that no objection will be taken to your proceeding to sea on the 27th inst.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*W. G. ...*  
Colonial Secretary.

COMMANDER H. de G. LAMOTTE, D.S.O., R.N., (Retd.)  
R.S.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY",  
STANLEY.

CODE.

C/10/28.

TELEGRAM.

*From* The Secretary of State for the Colonies,

*To* His Excellency the Governor.

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*Despatched:* 1st June, 1928. *Time:* 8.50.

*Received:* 1st June, 1928. *Time:* 10.45.

GOVERNOR,  
PORTSTANLEY.

Confidential. Your telegram 24th May I note your remarks concerning Lamotte but can take no action pending the receipt of evidence at Court of Enquiry. Statements regarding work of Scoresby was made on the authority of the Discovery Committee.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

C/10/28.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

30th May, 1928.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL (2).

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the previous telegraphic correspondence terminating with my telegram of the 25th of May, 1928, on the subject of the discipline prevailing on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" and, in the first place, to enclose a copy of a letter addressed in this connection, in accordance with your instructions, to Commander H. de G. Lamotte, D.S.O., R.N., (Retd.) by the Colonial Secretary, together with a copy of Commander Lamotte's reply to that letter.

Enclosure I.

Enclosure II.

2. I would state that I base my charge against Commander Lamotte of failing to maintain proper discipline on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" on three broad grounds, namely :-

- (1) The general state of affairs existing on board the vessel as revealed in the correspondence in the case of Lieutenant-Commander K. Morley, R.N. (Retd.), a full copy of which is being transmitted to you by this same mail under cover of my despatch, No. 204 of the 29th of May, 1928.
- (2) The circumstances attendant on the accident sustained by the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" in striking a rock at the entrance to Stromness Bay, South Georgia, which have been reported to you in my Confidential despatch of the 18th of May, 1928, and
- (3) The incidents which occurred on the arrival of the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" at Stanley on the 1st of May, 1928.

I should explain that in communicating with Commander

Lamotte/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Lamotte through the Colonial Secretary as stated in the preceding paragraph, I did not think it expedient for me to instance as a ground of complaint in regard to the state of discipline on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" the circumstances of the accident sustained by the vessel at the entrance to Stromness Bay in view of the peculiar consideration, fully made known to you, whereby I am constrained to differ from the finding of the Court of Enquiry into this matter, exonerating from blame the Captain and all the Officers.

3. In regard to the first two of these three grounds I do not propose to enter into great detail as I consider that the documents submitted speak for themselves and that a perusal of them cannot fail to show you that the lack of good order and discipline on board the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" is such as would not be tolerated even on board a tramp steamer and is incredible on board a vessel in the service of any Government. I would invite your attention, however, to two points only; firstly that it is typical of the casual and irresponsible manner in which the "Discovery" expedition as a whole is conducted that the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" should have been commissioned for a voyage to and for operations in these waters without a single chart of the South Atlantic, and secondly that if, by Commander Lamotte's own statement, Lieutenant-Commander Morley was unfit to be entrusted with the navigation of the vessel it passes comprehension how he permitted him still to retain these duties and took no steps to relieve him of them either in person or by another officer. In my view such negligence is little short of criminal and in the event of any disaster involving loss of life having occurred or occurring to the

encouraging success. I beg to assure you that vessel/  
incident of this nature had it occurred in the case of

vessel. I do not see on what defence Commander Lamotte or the "Discovery" Committee would have been or would be able honourably to refute a charge of manslaughter, particularly when it is considered that these waters are notoriously the most dangerous and difficult in the world and demand for their safe navigation skill and experience of the highest degree.

4. I have reported to you already in my telegram of the 3rd of May, 1928, the disgraceful incidents which occurred on the arrival of the S.S.S. "William Scoresby" at Stanley on the 1st of May, 1928. The facts briefly are as follows :- The vessel tied up alongside the jetty in the Government Dockyard at 11 a.m. approximately on that day. Generally speaking, the entire ship's company, including the officers, who to make matters worse were in uniform, and the scientists, appear at once to have landed and to have proceeded direct to public houses in the town where they drank immoderately, in some cases, officers and scientists together with or in the presence of ratings from their own ship, so that in result, without exaggeration, by 5 p.m. on the same day the greater part of the ship's company were drunk or badly under the influence of drink in the streets of Stanley. I attach copies of statements made in this connection by responsible persons from which you will understand the disgraceful nature of the scandal which has in consequence arisen.

5. As you are aware, I have for some time past been making great efforts to restore a good order and a healthy tone among the Civil Servants and in society in this Colony. In particular I have set my face sternly against the evils of drink with, I am glad to say, an encouraging success. I beg to assure you that an incident of this nature had it occurred in the case of

Enclosures III.  
IV, V, VI, VII,  
and VIII.

a ship under the direct control of this Government would have been followed by consequences most serious to those concerned and I must protest in respectful but decided terms against the attitude, so it seems, almost amounting to defiance, which was adopted by the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" on this occasion.

6. I consider that the responsibility for the general lack of order and discipline and the want of proper tone prevailing on board the vessel must be laid inevitably at the door of the captain, Commander Lamotte, who is himself, unfortunately, not to myself but to the other officials of my administration, off-hand in manner and of intemperate habits. Although the Colonial Secretary has, I am certain from my personal observation of Mr. Ellis' manner, never failed in courtesy in his dealings with Commander Lamotte, the latter has entirely failed to show Mr. Ellis the respect due to his position, for example addressing him as "Ellis" and otherwise treating him, if not with contempt, at least with familiarity. I would remark in instance of this complaint that on the public occasion of the marriage of Captain Rotheroate to Miss Warner on the 2nd of May, 1923, which was attended by myself and the Colonial Secretary in full dress, after the service Mr. Ellis passed Commander Lamotte outside the Cathedral in the midst of numerous persons who had attended the ceremony. Commander Lamotte was in uniform and at the moment Mr. Ellis passed him was lighting his pipe. Although Mr. Ellis looked straight at him he continued to light his pipe and made no attempt either to put away his pipe or to acknowledge Mr. Ellis - in fact, he deliberately and openly ignored him. Incidentally Mr. Ellis has told me that during the whole time the R.S.S. "William Scoresby"

has/

has been in Stanley he has never once received a salute from any member, officer or man, of the ship's company. I have learnt also that Captain Medroz, R.N. (Retd.), Harbour Master, has been compelled to debar Commander Lanotte from entering his house on account of the practice which Commander Lanotte was making of going there in the forenoon and consuming an inordinate quantity of liquor.

7. I submit therefore that Commander Lanotte is constitutionally unfitted to remain in command of the R.S.S. "William Scoresby", and I am of the opinion, moreover, that with his entire lack of previous experience of these waters it is positively unsafe for him to remain in command. I do not, however, wish further to pursue the issue as regards the other officers and the scientists implicated in this unfortunate affair as they have freely confessed their fault and have apologised for their conduct. I think indeed that Lieutenant-Commander R. L. V. Shannon, R.N. (Retd.) the Chief Officer, and Mr. D. D. John, Senior Scientist, have learnt a lesson from their regrettable lapse which they are not likely soon to forget.

Enclosure IX.

8. I enclose in accordance with your instructions a full copy of the proceedings before the Magistrate's Court in the case of Artificer-Engineer J. Sutherland who, you will recollect, was sentenced to two months imprisonment with hard labour for being drunk and assaulting the Police which sentence was subsequently reduced by me in my capacity of Judge of the Supreme Court to one of a fine of £5 in view of the accused's excellent record in the past and the serious consequences to his future of the enforcement of the original sentence. I would observe that the Police would seem in dealing with this

case/

case, to have exercised marked restraint and to be entirely free from any suspicion of aggressiveness in so much as Constable R. H. Earl who arrested Artificer-Engineer Sutherland had but a few minutes previously advised him in a friendly manner to go back to his ship.

9. In conclusion I would state that I have not considered it necessary to elaborate at length all the circumstances attendant on this matter as I feel that the submission to you of the documents enclosed in this despatch is a more than sufficient substantiation of the course of action which I considered it my duty to recommend to you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

H. C. M. S. ARMY, F.C.S., M.P.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

PAKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

7th June, 1928.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the previous correspondence terminating with your Confidential telegram of the 1st of June, 1928, on the subject inter alia of the information furnished to you by the "Discovery" Committee to the effect that the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" has performed admirable scientific work during her season at South Georgia, and to lay before you the grounds on which I have been constrained to question the accuracy of the statement thus made.

2. In the first place I think that it will be significant for me to set out succinctly the principal dates connected with the movements of the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" hitherto on her present commission as follows :

Left United Kingdom	...	...	24th December, 1927.
Arrived Stanley	...	...	2nd February, 1928.
Left Stanley for South Georgia.			8th February, 1928.
Disabled by striking rock at entrance to Stromness Bay, South Georgia	...	...	20th March, 1928.
Repaired and sailed for South Shetlands	...	...	14th April, 1928.
Arrived Stanley	...	...	1st May, 1928.
Left Stanley..	...	...	28th May, 1928.

I submit that a study of these dates will reveal the fact that the five months, and more, which have elapsed since

the/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

the departure from the United Kingdom of the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" have been occupied in this manner, vis :

On the voyage to Stanley ...	1 month, and more.
In harbour at Stanley... ..	1 month.
In harbour at South Georgia for repair' ... ..	1 month, almost.
On operations in the waters of the Colony and the Dependencies ... ..	2 months, approximately ;

and that allowing for the time taken on the voyage from Stanley to South Georgia, and from South Georgia to Stanley, and for additional days spent in harbour at South Georgia it is open to grave doubt whether the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" actually has operated for more than one month out of the total period of five months in the vicinity of South Georgia. I fail therefore to see on this ground alone any justification of the special eulogy which the "Discovery" Committee has thought fit to bestow on the work which she has performed. Furthermore as you will have learned from paragraph 19 of my Confidential despatch of the 8th of May, 1928, the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" after leaving South Georgia for the South Shetlands on the 14th of April, 1928, did not for some reason yet to be determined proceed in accordance with her sailing orders to Deception Island but turned northwards on meeting ice off the South Orkneys so that she reached Stanley on the 1st of May, 1928, having passed over the Burdwood Bank on the way where, incidentally, she was prevented from performing much, if any, work of value by stress of weather.

3. In the second place, as reported to you later in the same paragraph of my Confidential despatch above referred to and in my Confidential despatch (2) of the

30th of May, 1928, the general navigation of the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" has been so unsatisfactory throughout her present commission as to render the exactitude of the various stations made to such a degree problematical. Mr. D. D. John, Senior Scientist, has told me personally, as well as Mr. Barlas, that a great number of them on this account must be considered of very doubtful value.

4. Again I have always understood that the samples taken at the stations in any case require detailed examination and comparison before their actual value can be assessed. I do not appreciate then how sufficient time could have elapsed for this to have been done and for the deduced results to have been communicated to the "Discovery" Committee by the date on which the information in question was furnished to you by the "Discovery" Committee. I would remark in this connection that the most recent scientific report of which a copy has been supplied to me in that by Mr. John dated the 12th of May, 1928, and covering the period of the voyage from England to South Georgia, namely, the 24th of December, 1927, to the 16th of March, 1928.

5. I do not desire to impinge the good faith of the "Discovery" Committee but I must in fairness to myself and to my advisors protest in this instance, respectfully but firmly, against what appears to be a definite statement made with inadequate foundation in regard to happenings within my immediate jurisdiction. I would ask therefore, if such a request be considered proper, that you will cause enquiry to be made as to the data on which this statement was prepared for submission to you.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.