

1920

J. R. Cadwallader,
South Georgia,
E. B. Binnie.

No. 251

C.S.

Ag. British Consul, General
Buenos Aires.

SUBJECT.

1920

25th February

Previous Paper.

Statement by J. R. Cadwallader, seaman,
regarding alleged irregular practices at
South Georgia.

MINUTES.

N.S.

Submitted of dispatch & enclosures
? forward copies to Mr Binnie for his
observations -

T.R.
29.3.20

No. I think it will be sufficient to send copies of
enclosures only to Mr Binnie for observations.

T. R. Johnston
Adm.

March 29/20

Letter to S. M. So. Georgia, 19.4.20.

148. Report from Mr Binnie & Mr Simon.
Does your Excellency wish copies forwarded
to British Consulate General from this
office at Government House. The Consul
General's letter is addressed to the Governor

for
22.7.20

Subsequent Paper.

⑤

Letter No A. B. M. Consul General,
Buenos Aires, dated 26th July, 1920.

J. S. Scott for Administration
26/7/20.

251/20.

251/20.

15th April, 1920.

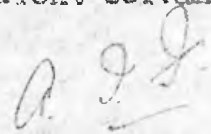
Sir,

I am directed by the Administrator to forward to you for your observations the attached copies of enclosures to a letter dated the 20th February, received from the Acting British Consul-General, Buenos Aires, on the subject of a statement made by J. R. Caldwell, regarding alleged irregular practices at South Georgia.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

E. E. Binnie, Esq.,
Stipendiary Magistrate,
SOUTH GEORGIA.



251/20

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,
BUENOS AIRES.

Confidential.

25th February 1920.

Sir:-

I have the honour to transmit herewith an affidavit and autograph statement by John R. Cadwallader, seaman, regarding alleged irregular practices at South Georgia. It is with some hesitation that I forward these documents. In the first place Cadwallader himself, who has admittedly suffered from shell-shock, does not strike me as a reliable informant. He does not appear to be a man of strong character and although at first he had a good deal to say, he was afterwards not very ready to allow his statements to be committed to paper. Further, he has had a difference with the Captain of the s.s. "Don Ernesto", the ship which brought him here from South Georgia, for while Cadwallader alleges that he came up as passenger and therefore claims wages for services performed by him on board, the Captain on the other hand states that he was given a passage in consideration of his working his way to Buenos Aires. The Compañia Argentina de Pesca is a responsible concern and on the face of it would not be likely to quarrel over a small item such as one seaman's wages. Of the allegations made in the declaration, some appear trifling and the whole
affair

The Governor,

Port Stanley.

affair is probably the outcome of some grudge entertained against Mr. Binnie in consequence of Cadwallader's dismissal. although he states he resigned. Nevertheless a formal statement of the nature having been sworn before me, I cannot see my way clear to file it without communicating the contents to you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

A. J. Rodgers
ACTING BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL.

I, John R. Cadwallader, seaman, at present in Buenos Aires, hereby make oath and say as follows:-

I am a British subject, having been born at Pembroke Dock, South Wales. I arrived in South Georgia about 5th November last from Cape Town by the steam whaler "Krabbinn". I fell sick as the result of shell shock and went into hospital at Grytviken. I was there about three weeks and one day Mr Binnie, Resident Magistrate, came into the hospital and told me he wanted a police constable. I mentioned that I was already under contract to the Southern Sealing and Whaling Company. He said "That will be all right, I will arrange things". I then accepted the post. He told me to send in a written application which he would forward to the proper quarter, but he said he would engage me in the meantime. I then took up my residence in the Magistrate's house. The second night after I had gone to live in the house, I went casually into the office to play on the harmonium which they have there. While I was so occupied, Mr Symon, chief custom house officer, came in and reprimanded me severely for being in the room, saying that there were many important and confidential documents there which were not to be seen. I think it was the same night that two cases of whiskey marked for hospital use were landed from the "Traveller" (steam whaler). They were not used in the hospital but were taken upstairs in the house and used by Mr Binnie, Mr Symon and the various managers of the companies. It often happened that whiskey was allowed to land without having paid duty. The Government allow so many whales to be killed in the course of the season, that will allow of the companies killing so many whales per day as they can dispose of on the slips and works out at about six a day for each station. When I left Grytviken about ten days ago I saw at least thirty whales lying tied to a floating buoy there, some of which had been there since before Christmas. Reports were to hand that the other stations were, if anything, worse. In the office one day I saw the report of whales killed at Prince Olaf Station for the month of November, 1919. The report stated that 35 fin whales had been killed. A copy of the report was made out to be forwarded to the proper authorities and the figure was changed in the copy to 55. I could not say whether the change was effected by Mr Binnie or by Mr Symon. In consequence of a strike a great number of men were fined five pounds each and I know that a number of these men had not taken part in the strike.

Sworn at Buenos Aires this sixth day of February, 1920.

Before me:-

David J. Rodgers
ACTING BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL.

John R. Cadwallader



J. R. Badwallader
Sailors Home
Buenos-Ayres
2/2/20.

Sir.

Confirming my interview with you today, I beg to state that, having lately relinquished my position as Constable on the Island of "South Georgia," a British Dependency, I would like to lay an indictment against the Stipendiary resident Magistrate E. Bunnie. I accuse him of rendering false reports re the number of Whales caught and killed by the different companies operating and Whaling from the Island of South Georgia, thereby minimising the number of Whales caught. I shall be glad to answer any further questions if you choose to go into the matter. The above address will always find me. I beg to remain

Dear Sir

as above

John. R. Badwallader.

~~S
Keep Copy~~

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Government House, Stanley.

26th July, 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Despatch of the 25th of February, which I much regret has, through some oversight, been left unacknowledged till now.

2. I enclose for your records copies of letters from the Magistrate and the Customs officer at South Georgia on the subject of John R. Cadwallader's allegations.

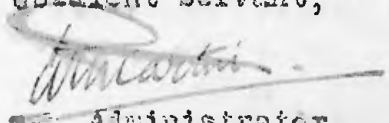
3. I am of opinion that the word of these responsible officers should be taken in preference to that of the seaman in question, and that no further action in the matter is called for.

4. I have to thank you for your courtesy in communicating the matter to me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Administrator.

H. B. M. Consul General,

Buenos Aires.

9th June, 1920.
3rd June, 1920.

S.G. 70/20.

The Magistrate's Office,

South Georgia,

9th. June 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 251/20 of 19th. April 1920, covering copies of statements made by Mr J. R. Cadwallader to the Ag. British Consul at Buenos Aires regarding alleged irregular practices at South Georgia.

1. In his first letter dated 2.2.20, he states "having lately relinquished my position as Constable". Had he mentioned to the Ag. British Consul the manner in which he relinquished his duties it is problematical if the second deposition would have been taken.

2. I cannot see, that by making false reports regarding the number of whales caught could in any way minimise the number actually taken, this of course is absurd, as I am only too glad to be able to report a good catch in order to substantiate my optimistic views regarding whaling in S.G.

DEPOSITION. (2).

Cadwallader appears to be correct about the date of his arrival in South Georgia, but in little else, probably owing to his suffering with so-called SHELL SHOCK. I am perfectly certain that I never entered the Hospital in Grytviken either to see Cadwallader or for any other purpose, neither did I on any occasion invite him to apply for the post, on the contrary he came several times to the Office and asked to see me regarding the post, and each time I informed him

Handwritten note:
Hon. J. R. Cadwallader
Jacklana Id.

2.

him, that I was not in need of a Constable. He however came again on the 23rd. December and asked if he could relieve the then Actg. Constable Smith who was returning to his vessel, as there were 4 prisoners in Gaol at the time I thought it necessary to have someone to look after them and gave Cadwallade the appointment temporary. It was not until some days afterwards he mentioned his contract with the Southern whaling and Sealing Company, and on my enquiring into the matter I was informed by the management that they intended sending him away as he was no good on the station, and had not done a days work since his arrival, but would be glad if I could employ him. Regarding the reprimand given him by Mr Simcn, I think he deserved, as he had no business in the office after hours and the Harmonium is my private property. This is however explained in the accompanying reply to a minute directed to Mr Simcn on the subject, as also the explanation of the 2 cases of Whisky ? alleged to have been used by myself and others. Regarding the matter of whales, I think you will agree with me, this needs no explanation. The greatest number of whales to my knowledge, in part at one time was 23, dating from the 11th. January when the Strike took place at King Edward Cove, hence the accumulation. One days catch for 4 Boats. I know nothing of reports coming from other stations that they were worse in this respect, nor do I believe one word of it. With regard to the catch of whales at Prince Clav's Hbr. in November 1919. Depcent says: The report for the month of November 1919 from P.C. Harbur stated 85 Fin whales had been killed and the figures were altered to 65 in the copy. I append

3.

append herewith the Triplicate Office copy of the 6 months report, of which the Secretary of State has the original and the duplicate was sent to the Colonial Secretary's office at Stanley, the figure is neither 85 or 65 but 21 and I dont think you will find any alteration has been made, the form is just as received from the Company, and written with a Remington Type-writer while the one in use at this office is an Empire.

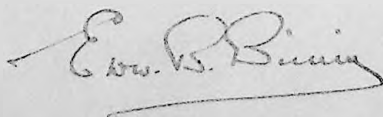
During Cadwalladers term of Office (one month) reports were made to me by the manager of the Station at Grytviken and also by Mr Simcn, stating that he had been seen leaving the vessel "Alfhild" drunk at late hours and also he admitted to Mr Simcn himself that he had been on board and assisted in making or distilling spirit. It was also reported to me that he made trouble among the workmen at the station during the beginning of the strike, when I forbade him to go to the station. The day on which the climax was reached, I dismissed him instantly for striking a prisoner, although he evidently expected dismissal and handed me his resignation after I had dismissed him.

Cadwallader left South Georgia together with the men who were deported from Grytviken, and on arrival at Buenos Aires deserted the ship thereby causing the owners to be fined 300 dollars Gold by the immigration department.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Reply to minute directed As
Mr. Binnis S.B.S.

King Edward Cove, South Georgia.

3rd. June 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date enclosing a copy of a report made by J.R. Cadwallader to the Act. British Consul at Buenos Aires referring to irregular practices at South Georgia.

I can only criticise the whole as a fabrication of untruths. In reference to the statement of my reprimanding him for playing the harmonium in the office he appears to be in error with regard to the date as at the time he took up duties as Constable I was at Stromness Bay and did not return to Headquarters for several days. It was not until several days after my return that the occurrence took place. I had several times observed Cadwallader in the office outside of office hours interfering with my Ships' Papers etc. and disarranging them, and as there was no lock on the new office door it was impossible to keep him out. I was informed on good authority also that he was in the habit of telling Government business to the workmen on the station so on that particular evening I told him plainly that he was not to go in the office without permission after office hours as I reported to you at the time.

Edw. B. Binnis Esq.
Residing Magistrate
South Georgia

With regard to the dutiable goods discharged from the s.w. Traveller, the latter did not arrive until the 11th.

2.

the 11th.

of January a considerable time after the already mentioned affair. On examining the vessel I found three cases marked "HOSPITAL" and there being no other mark or direction on them I did not know to whom they belonged and consequently took them to the Customs Warehouse for examination and claim by their owner. One case contained 12 bts. of whisky, one 12 bts. Vermouth and the third ~~4~~¹² bts. brandy and $\frac{1}{2}$ bct. chartreuse. They remained in a cupboard upstairs in the house as at the time there was a prisoner in jail which is open to the Customs shed and I therefore took them in the house for safety as has been the custom since I came here.

On the return of Capt. Ness the manager of the Cia. Argentina de Pesca he produced the bills for the above goods which were accordingly delivered to him in March and the duty was collected on the first mentioned two then and included in Rec. No. 756. The case of whisky remained in warehouse till the 22nd. of May when it was delivered, duty being collected on it, Baggage Slip Rect. 830 Pass No. 39 and warehouse rent on General Rec. No. 785.

With regard to the statement that whisky and other dutiable goods was landed without duty having been paid, the only time that such a thing took place was when Cadwallader himself, during the stay of the H.M.S. Dartmouth, came on shore with two bottles of Gin and 2000 cigarettes and left without paying the duty. I have no knowledge of the whaling report question whatever.

3.

Moreover I can prove that Cadwallader himself took part in distilling spirit on board the Norwegian sailing vessel ALFHILD when lying in this port and on several occasions he was observed leaving that vessel in a state of intoxication. On one particular occasion which I can prove the watchman on the station found him lying drunk amongst the whale offal on the platform at 1a.m.

It is evident from the termination of his "Report" that he is now in league with the strikers who were deported from the station of the Compañia Argentina de Pesca in January and with whom he went up to Buenos Aires.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Customs Officer.

Edw. B. Binnie Esqr.

Stipendiary Magistrate.

South Georgia.