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(Formerly)

D/4/63	D / 4 / 6 3

SOUTH GEORGIA CONDITIONS.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER

D/22/59.

South Georgia. (includes notes on DG by Newall)

6771
Ref: 845.

King Edward Point,
SOUTH GEORGIA.
2nd April, 1963.

His Excellency, The Governor,
Falkland Islands and Dependencies,
Government House,
PORT STANLEY.

Sir,

Staff Recruitment.

2 In the past there appears to have been a considerable amount of inaccurate information given to recruits at Crown Agents interviews. The following details of appointments and the attached general description should help Crown Agents to give accurate information.

I would stress strongly that the parts of this letter typed in red should be embodied in the applicants Contract. This would ensure that the applicant would have a clear understanding of his hours of duty and remove the phrase so often heard .."I understood from Crown Agents.. etc..".

These clauses should cover present and future recruitment.

COOK/STEWARD, Discovery House: Capable of cooking and baking for up to 26 persons.

Three Cook/Stewards^{are} employed, ^{is} cooking done on a rota system one-in-three weeks. ^{the} Remaining two Cook/Stewards^{are} responsible for all cleaning in New Discovery House, including Bathrooms, toilets, all public rooms, stairways and corridors, Medical section and also certain bedrooms; serving meals and kitchen assistance, also Government Laundry for New Discovery House.

X Hours of duty: 0730 to 1430 (with half-hour for breakfast and lunch, and fifteen minutes break for morning coffee). 1700 to 1930 (with half-hour for Dinner).

48-hour week with occasionally longer hours due to Dinner and Cocktail Parties. One day off per week.

COOK/STEWARD, Administrative Officer's Residence:

Capable of cooking and baking for family and guests. Table service and cleaning of Administrative Officer's Residence, also Laundry.

Hours of duty: 0730 to 1400 (with half-hour for breakfast and lunch, and fifteen minutes break for morning coffee). 1700 to 2000 (with half-hour for Dinner).

48-hour week with occasionally longer hours due to Dinner and Cocktail Parties. One day off per week.

PAINTER: Should be competent Painter but when required must be capable of undertaking Handyman's duties.

48-hour week.

HANDYMAN: General duties.

48-hour week.

W/T OPERATORS: P.M.G. (2nd Class) Certificate.

If applicant has not qualified for P.M.G. (2nd Class) Certificate following are details of requirements :-

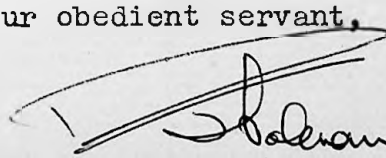
1. To send and receive accurately all the signs of the International Morse Code. At least 20 words per minute.
2. Adjust Transmitters for transmission between Bands 400 Kilocycles to 20 Megacycles.
3. Detailed knowledge of Regulations applicable to the counting and charging for words contained in telegrams, as Internationally agreed by Administrations.
4. Detailed knowledge of Procedures and Regulations as applicable to Maritime Mobile working.
5. To be able to type is an advantage.

Duties:- Transmission and reception of telegrams over the fixed service and to ships at sea. Transmission of Weather Forecasts and Meteorological Observations over the fixed service. The acceptance of telegrams from the Public and charging for same. Preparation and distribution of telegrams received. Station employs two Operators.

In addition to duties of W/T Operator as covered by P.M.G.(2nd Class) Certificate, applicants will be required to maintain Automatic Telephone System.

I am,

Your obedient servant,


Administrative Officer.

See 1/22/59
for SG Notes
by Mowatt.

4
3

Introductory Note.

A considerable amount of inaccurate information has been given to prospective Government employees in the past and in order that men may be suitably equipped for and have some idea of the island which is to be their home for the next eighteen months, or so, the following notes have been compiled.

The conditions are those prevailing in March 1963. Some books are available from Public Libraries on the subject of South Georgia, but it must be remembered that they were written before the whaling companies ceased to operate and deal with the life of a busy thriving industry. With the cessation of sealing and whaling from South Georgia shipping opportunities and living conditions have altered considerably.

The island of South Georgia lies between 38 degrees 18 minutes and 35 degrees 40 minutes West, and between 54 degrees and 54 degrees 56 minutes South. Its geographical position is most misleading when considering climatic conditions, as although the Government station on King Edward Point lies in approximately the same latitude South as Edinburgh does in the North, our climate is much more severe than is likely to be experienced in that Scottish City. This is explained by the fact that the island lies within the Antarctic Convergence and so endures sub-Antarctic climate. During the 'Summer' months the temperature has been known to rise to 20 C (70 F) and during the winter falls to -17 C (Zero F).

There are no trees or shrubs of any kind but on the lower slopes of the hills there is a coarse Tussock grass and numerous brightly coloured mosses. The terrain is mountainous, the highest peak being that of Mount Paget at 9,765 feet. The island has been aptly named in the title of George Sutton's book "Glacier Island" as there are a great many glaciers, some running down to the sea. It is possible to go for limited walks, although perhaps a more apt description would be 'scrambles' as there is very little flat land.

There are no shops, no roads and no vehicles other than Tractors for snow clearing. There is a rough path from the Government station round the Bay to a whaling station, although the company no longer operates and has only a few maintenance men there.

Shipping opportunities are now limited. To be relied upon is the mid-winter (21st June) mail ship from Port Stanley. This vessel, the "Darwin", usually takes Government passengers from Montevideo down to the Falkland Islands, from thence they will probably proceed to South Georgia in the RRS "Shackleton". When the "Darwin" arrives at mid-winter she will also bring stores and supplies which one can order from the several shops in Port Stanley. A telegram (2d. per word) is usually sent a week or two before "Darwin" is due to sail and the goods are shipped, to be paid for by remittance through the South Georgia Post Office.

In November or December one or both of the Royal Research Ships "John Biscoe" or "Shackleton" call here on their way to the British Antarctic Bases, bringing mail and stores. In the early New Year there is usually a visit by HMS "Protector". If the "Shackleton" goes to Port Stanley during the 'summer'

she usually calls here to take our outward mail. Then, finally, at the end of the season when the Research ships return to Great Britain they call here to take our mail home.

During the 'summer', or 'season' as it is called here, there is a considerable amount of rain and low cloud, February being the worst month. From early October until January there are hundreds of Elephant Seals on the beaches of King Edward Point and in the adjacent Tussock. Gentoo and a few King Penguins also visit the Point from time to time throughout the year. Those interested in Ornithology will find much to study, including various species of Albatross and Petrels.

Of Government personnel there are 21 when up to full strength although this is seldom the case. With only the caretaker crews on the whaling stations, the whole population of the island, including wives and children of some Government personnel, amounts to approximately 40 - 50 persons.

Bachelor staff are accommodated in New Discovery House. This building is sited on high ground overlooking Cumberland Bay East with magnificent views of the Allardyce Range and Mount Paget. Each man has his own room with central heating, hot and cold water, ample cupboard and drawer space, writing desk, settee and chair. There is a large Recreation Room with Billiards, Table Tennis, Card Tables and Darts provided. There is a light, airy dining-room, lounge, and pantry for the preparation of individual night-time drinks. There are ample showers and baths. As photography is the most popular hobby in South Georgia a large Darkroom is provided.

Married families are quartered in warm, centrally-heated houses or bungalows. All are timber built, have modern kitchens and bathrooms, and are furnished in modern style. There follows a list of furniture and fittings provided and a list of those things which should be brought out by married families, bearing in mind that there are no shops for last-minute purchases and few ships calling here. However, if travelling via Port Stanley and it is known in advance that there will be sufficient time between arrival there and departure for onward transport to South Georgia, it is possible to buy cleaning materials and stores, also toilet necessities etc in Port Stanley. It is essential to check with Crown Agents whether in fact there will be sufficient time for such purchases as the ship which takes you from Montevideo to Port Stanley will also probably carry replenishments for the shops and they will have to be unloaded and distributed. I think the safest way is to take a small stock of everything you might possibly need, say for six months, and then re-order from Port Stanley in plenty of time.

In the past it has been possible for Government personnel to purchase skis, boots, heavy winter clothing and working gear from the whaling station Slop Chests, but since ceasing operations they have no reason to carry stocks and it is now necessary for Government employees to purchase their equipment and clothing in Great Britain. It is still possible to obtain some toilet necessities of a limited range from the Slop Chests, but as stocks become exhausted they are not replenished and it is necessary to order by telegram from the Falkland Islands.

Houses are equipped with :-

Lounge furniture
 Dining furniture
 Bedroom furniture (two bedrooms)
 Beds, mattresses and pillows
 Carpets and rugs
 Curtains and pelmets
 Bookcase or shelves
 Washing machine to each house
 Vacuum cleaner between two houses
 Electric cooker
 Electric kettle
 Refrigerator
 Lampshades (Electric bulbs supplied free)
 Saucepans

Married families should bring with them :-

AN EFFICIENT TIN OPENER AND A SPARE
 Electric Iron (220 volts AC)
 Frying Pan, cooking utensils and baking tins
 Blankets and bed linen
 Table linen
 China, glass, cutlery
 Washing up bowl and equipment
 Broom, bucket, dust pan and brushes, dusters
 Washing powders
 Toilet soap and toilet paper
 Polish and shoe polish
 In fact, all cleaning materials normally
 used in a home.
 A most useful item is a spot remover or
 clothes cleaning fluid.

It is advisable to bring the usual contents of a home medicine chest, Liver Salts, Aspirins, Elastoplast, Cotton Wool, Antiseptic Cream and an all-purpose Antiseptic.

Notes for Women.

During the season it is possible to dry clothes outdoors, so a clothes line and strong pegs should be brought. As strong winds can spring up in a moment, a watch must be kept that washing does not disappear seawards.

Food can be bought through the Government store. This is in no way a shop, but a written order is submitted and filled once a month for dry and tinned goods, fortnightly for frozen food. There are one or two items only of the latter. At the moment meat is bought weekly from the adjacent whaling station, again through submitting an order which is delivered the following day by the Handyman of the Point. Spices, cake decorations, luxury goods etc., should be brought with you.

As there are many hours when the weather keeps one housebound it is advisable to bring knitting, embroidery or some such hobby, and, of course, sewing materials are essential. A good stock of cosmetics and personal necessities should be brought bearing in mind the possibility of there being five months without a supply ship calling.

Warm slacks and hip-length jacket are necessary in winter. Good flat walking shoes are essential. The ground is very rough and covered with sharp stones so that heeled shoes are quickly ruined. Indoor clothes need only be lightweight as the central heating is thermostatically controlled and can be adjusted to individual preference. There are usually parties held at mid-winter, Christmas and New Year, so a short party dress is useful. There is a list further on of the equipment that men need here and it would be well to equip yourself with similar boots etc. before leaving Great Britain as those which are obtainable in Port Stanley are for men's wear and mostly too large for women.

Pot plants grow well indoors here and if the means of transport makes it possible, it is worth bringing a few plants.

Whilst ski-ing is acknowledged to be a delightful sport, in South Georgia during the winter it is the only means of locomotion. It is quite impossible to walk through a great depth of soft snow, and therefore skis are an essential piece of equipment. Beginners need not be alarmed at the prospect of having to swoop down steep slopes or execute sharp turns straight away. The Point is on flat ground and there are plenty of very gentle slopes nearby where practice can be had before venturing further afield.

There follows a list of clothing and equipment which is necessary. It does not include the sundries which one would normally take for a protracted stay overseas. British Spring or Autumn clothing is quite suitable for the season here. Those items marked with an asterisk can now be bought in Port Stanley.

- * Sea Boots or Wellingtons (large enough to take thick socks)
- * Thick socks (Oiled wool ones would double as ski boot socks)
- X * Skis with quick-release bindings. The terrain is very rough. Standard Kandahar bindings have proved satisfactory.
- X * Short ankle boots for ski-ing
- X * Assorted Ski wax
 - * Anorak or similar windproof garment
 - Sun Glasses
 - Spare boot and shoe laces
 - * Photography equipment including developing and printing goods.
 - Torch and batteries
 - Stout walking shoes or boots
 - Tennis shoes or similar. There is a very rough hard tennis court.
 - * String vests.
- X Ski Sticks
- X It is hoped to be able to supply these in South Georgia.

3rd May,

63.

627
Gentlemen,

I am directed to enclose a copy of a letter recently received from the Administrative Officer, South Georgia concerning duties and conditions applicable to certain officers recruited for service at South Georgia.

152
2. These have been approved and I should be grateful if you would embody the conditions in all relevant contracts.

3. I am also forwarding some very useful notes compiled by the Administrative Officer giving information on the island in general, which I should like you to make available to all candidates for employment at South Georgia.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) H.L. Bound

for COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations,
4, Millbank,
LONDON, S.W.1.

HLB/IM.

Feb 30 4. 64
See for file
revision

13
6th June, 1963.

Dear Denis,

41-420
8/22/59
14
You remember that Howatt made the notes about South Georgia when he left but as there were so many changes going on we never published them. The file which was noted to be brought up after a certain period came up to me recently and I have written this letter to the Crown Agents. They will have a copy of Howatt's notes in case you want to look at them but I doubt really whether there is anything more to add to the notes you made yourself.

Yours sincerely,

David Manders.

Mr. D.J. Coleman,
'Rivston',
Five Oaks,
Saint Saviours,
Jersey,
CHANNEL ISLANDS.

Copy in D/22/59

RDM/DM.

14
D/1/63

5th June,

63.

Gentlemen,

40.6.59
3.6.59
I am directed to refer to your letter H/Gen. 109/3 of the 20th November, 1962, and to my letter D/22/59 of the 7th July, 1962.

10 2. In view of my letter D/5/59/V of the 3rd May, 1963, this matter can now be considered closed. I am however sending a copy of this letter to Captain Coleman who is now on leave in case he may want to have a look at Mr. Howatt's notes to see whether there are any points he thinks are worth adding to the notes forwarded by my letter D/5/59/V of the 3rd May.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) R.H.D. Manders

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations,
A. Millbank,
LONDON, E.C.4.

Copy to Mr. Coleman & D/22/59

RHEM/IM.

See 18.

THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE
QUOTED IN COMMUNICATIONS.

M6/Gen.109/2.

GRAMS { INLAND: "CROWN, SOWEST, LONDON."
OVERSEA: "CROWN, LONDON SW1"

PHONE: ABBEY 7730

EX No. 24209

CROWN AGENTS

FOR OVERSEA GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS

4, MILLBANK,

LONDON, S.W.1.



23 MAY 1963

Dear Sir,

We acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.D/5/39/V of the 3rd May and enclosures, from which we are sorry to learn that candidates attending interviews here subsequently claim to have been given inaccurate information about conditions in South Georgia. It has often proved difficult to include on Interviewing Boards an officer with recent first-hand experience of life on the island, and in such circumstances there has been little up-to-date information available to us to supplement the general background provided in Staff Indents. The notes compiled by the Administrative Officer should prove most valuable, and we shall ensure that candidates are sent copies before they are offered appointment.

We also appreciate having the further details about duties and working hours, which we propose to include in future in the papers of particulars of vacancies which we issue to candidates and which form part of the offer of appointment. We feel sure that this would be more satisfactory than incorporating the details in the actual signed contracts, since the "Duties" clause of the latter already contains adequate safeguards by making it clear, first, that the officer will be required to perform not only the usual duties of the post but "any other suitable duties which the Government may call upon him to perform"; and, secondly, that he will be required "to devote the whole of his time and attention to the service of the Government". These safeguards would be seriously weakened if they were qualified by specifying the extent of the officer's duties or his normal hours of work.

It would be a great help if you could arrange for future Staff Indents for South Georgia vacancies to mention working hours and possible extra duties, and for us to be informed as and when any further changes in working conditions in South Georgia take place.

We enclose a copy of this letter for transmission to the Administrative Officer in South Georgia.

Yours faithfully,

for the Crown Agents.

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

LP/EFJ.

See.
The Comm reference to be file above
Mowat's handbook on

~~50~~ 18

CROWN AGENTS

4. MILLBANK.

LONDON, S.W.1.

1 MAY 1964

20th April, 1964.

TELEX NO. 24209

15
A

We refer to paragraph one of our letter MG/Gen 109/2 of the 23rd May, 1962, concerning local conditions in South Georgia and enclose a copy of a pamphlet which we issue to candidates who apply to us for appointment to posts in South Georgia for which we are, from time to time, asked to recruit.

10

We have sent a copy of this letter and its enclosure to the Administrative Officer in South Georgia.

Yours faithfully,

W. R. Anderson

for the Crown Agents

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

145

19

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Wt. P2809 5/61

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

Psy

7.5.64

To

etat ADMINOFF ZBH

SGA/c

No. 130. Yourlet 845 of 2nd April 1963 South Georgia conditions stop In view of renewed whaling activities grateful you revise your notes and let me have copy by June Darwin for forwarding to Crown Agents

Secretary

HLB/LH

Reply at 22

fan
35a
HGH

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

20

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Wt. P2809 5/61

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

Psy

13.6.64

To

etat ADMINOFF ZBH

SGA/c

No. 163. Please advise if free issue of necessary winter clothing available at South Georgia for temporary relief appointments stop Can obtain locally from BAS at cost approximately £10 but consider this rather much for an officer to pay for something he would have no further use for stop Please also advise if cigarettes tobacco toilet requisites etc available for purchase

Secretary

HLB/LH

Reply at 21

1a
13.6.64

DECODE.

No. 101.

TELEGRAM.*From* Administrative Officer, South Georgia.*To* Colonial Secretary, Stanley.*Despatched :* 15th June, 19 64. *Time :* 1800*Received :* 16th June, 19 64. *Time :* 0900

20

No. 203. Your telegram No. 163. Winter clothing not free issue South Georgia each man buys his own. Following can be purchased from Grytviken slopchest sea boots £1. 15. 0. cigarettes and toilet requisites no tobacco available. Skis £4. 8. 9. ski boots £4. 17. 6. ski sticks 13/9 ski bindings 17/3 can be purchased from Government stores. Suggest reliefs bring winter clothing as used Falklands plus anorak or wind cheater some heavy sweaters string vests gloves and if required overalls.

P/L : LH
(Intld.) HLB

fa

S.G. No. 846.

From :—



MEMO

C.S. No.

1st June, 1964.

To :—

THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
SOUTH GEORGIA.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

Notes on South Georgia Conditions.

19 With reference to your telegram No. 130 of 7th May, 1964, Please find attached Revised Notes in duplicate as requested.

It will be noticed that the introduction of Japanese Companies to the Whaling Industry here has made little or no difference to the general conditions prevailing on the Government Station, although a few minor alterations have been made in the notes.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Stalman", written over a horizontal line.

Administrative Officer.

THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE
QUOTED IN COMMUNICATIONS.

M6/GEN 109/3

Telegrams: "Crown, London-S.W.I."
Telephone: Abbey 7730
Telex No. 24209

CROWN AGENTS

FOR OVERSEA GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS

'M' Department
4, MILLBANK,

LONDON, S.W.1.



10th June, 1965

Dear Sir,

23
26a
With reference to your letter D/4/64 of 9th July, 1964 enclosing a revised set of notes on South Georgia, we shall be glad to learn whether these notes require bringing up to date in any way. A copy of the notes is attached for ease of reference.

We have sent a copy of this letter and enclosure to the Administrative Officer, South Georgia.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. R. Hudson".

for the Crown Agents

Reply at 27.
See 28.

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

June 1964.

26a

SOUTH GEORGIA

Introductory Note.

1. In order that successful candidates may be suitably equipped for and have some idea of the island which is to be their home for the next eighteen months or so, the following notes have been compiled.
2. The conditions are those prevailing in June 1964. Some books are available from Public Libraries on the subject of South Georgia, but it should be remembered that these were written before Whaling Companies changed. In 1963 both Leith Harbour and Grytviken Whaling Stations were on lease to Japanese Companies bringing about necessary changes in routes of travel to and from the island. These Companies do not leave a resident maintenance crew at South Georgia for the off-season period but this has little effect on the Government Station and general living conditions.
3. The island of South Georgia lies between 38 degrees 18 minutes and 35 degrees 40 minutes West, and between 54 degrees and 54 degrees 56 minutes South. Its geographical position is most misleading when considering climatic conditions, as although the Government station on King Edward Point lies in approximately the same latitude South as Edinburgh does in the North, our climate is much more severe than is likely to be experienced in that Scottish City. This is explained by the fact that the island lies within the Antarctic Convergence and so endures sub-Antarctic climate. During the "Summer" months the temperature has been known to rise to 23C (75F) and during the winter falls to -14C (7F).
4. There are no trees or shrubs of any kind but on the lower slopes of the hills there is a coarse Tussock grass and numerous brightly coloured mosses. The terrain is mountainous, the highest peak being that of Mount Paget at 9,765 feet. The island has been aptly named in the title of George Sutton's book "Glacier Island" as there are a great many glaciers, some running down to the sea. It is possible to go for limited walks, although perhaps a more apt description would be "scrambles" as there is very little flat land.
5. There are no shops, no roads and no vehicles other than Tractors for snow clearing. There is a rough path from the Government Station round the Bay to a whaling station.

/6. Shipping

6. Shipping opportunities are limited. To be relied upon is the mid-winter (21st June) mail ship from Port Stanley. When the "Darwin" arrives at mid-winter she will also bring stores and supplies which one can order from the several shops in Port Stanley. A telegram (2d. per word) is usually sent a week or two before "Darwin" is due to sail and the goods are shipped, to be paid for by remittance through the South Georgia Treasury. This vessel also takes Government passengers from Montevideo down to the Falkland Islands during summer, from thence they will probably proceed to South Georgia in the R.R.S. "Shackleton".
7. In November or December one or both of the Royal Research Ships "John Biscoe" or "Shackleton" call here on their way to the British Antarctic Bases, bringing mail and stores. In the early New Year there is usually a visit by H.M.S. Protector. If the "Shackleton" goes to Port Stanley during the "summer" she usually calls here to take the outward mail. Then, finally, at the end of the season when the Research ships return to Great Britain they call to take mail home. Whilst Japanese Whaling Companies are in operation it is possible that mail opportunities to and from South Georgia will present themselves via such ports as Durban, South Africa or Santiago, Chile.
8. During the "summer" or "season" as it is called here, there is a considerable amount of rain and low cloud, February being the worst month. From early October until January there are hundreds of Elephant Seals on the beaches of King Edward Point and in the adjacent Tussock. Gentoo and a few king penguins also visit the Point from time to time throughout the year. Those interested in Ornithology will find much to study, including various species of albatross and petrels.
9. Of Government personnel there are 21 when up to full strength although this is seldom the case. With only the caretaker crews on the whaling stations during the winter, the whole population of the island, including wives and children of some Government personnel, amounts to approximately 40 - 50 persons. In the Summer Season whaling personnel total about 800.
10. Bachelor staff are accommodated in "Shackleton" House. This building is sited on high ground overlooking Cumberland Bay East with magnificent views of the Allardycce Range and Mount Paget. Each man has his own room with central heating, hot and cold water, ample cupboard and drawer space, writing desk, settee and chair. There is a large Recreation Room with Billiards, Table Tennis, Card Tables and Darts provided.

There is a light airy dining-room, and lounge. A pantry is provided for the preparation of individual night-time drinks. There are ample showers and baths. As photography is the most popular hobby in South Georgia a large darkroom is also provided.

11. Married officers are accommodated in warm, centrally-heated houses or bungalows. All are timber built, have modern kitchens and bathrooms, and are basically furnished in modern style.

There follows a list of furniture and fittings provided and a list of those things which should be brought out by married officers, bearing in mind that there are no shops for last-minute purchases and few ships calling. However, if travelling via Port Stanley and it is known in advance that there will be sufficient time between arrival there and departure for onward transport to South Georgia, it is possible to buy cleaning materials and stores, also toilet necessities etc., in Port Stanley. It is essential to check with the Crown Agents whether in fact there will be sufficient time for such purchases as the ship which takes you from Montevideo to Port Stanley will also probably carry replenishments for the shops and they will have to be unloaded and distributed. The safest way is to take a small stock of everything you might possibly need, say for six months, and then re-order from Port Stanley in plenty of time.

12. In the past it has been possible for Government personnel to purchase skis, boots, heavy winter clothing and working gear from the whaling station "slop chests". Skis, sticks, bindings, ski-boots and wax are available in limited quantity from the Government Store. Articles of clothing necessary for winter wear should be obtained before leaving Great Britain. It is still possible to obtain some toilet necessities of a limited range from the "slop chests", but as stocks become exhausted they are not replenished and it is necessary to order by telegram from the Falkland Islands.

13. Houses are equipped with:-

Lounge furniture
Dining furniture
Bedroom furniture (two bedrooms)
Beds, mattresses and pillows
Carpets and rugs
Curtains and pelmets
Bookcase or shelves
Washing machine to each house
Vacuum cleaner between two houses
Electric cooker

*South Georgia Officers on
first appointment may
purchase essential clothes
from B.H. store in Stanley
(see 27 in) 8/63)
L.C.*

23.6.66

Electric kettle
Refrigerator
Lampshades (electric bulbs supplied free)
Saucepans

14. Married Officers should bring with them:-

AN EFFICIENT TIN OPENER AND A SPARE
Electric Iron (220 volts AC)
Frying Pan, cooking utensils and baking tins
Blankets and bed linen
Table linen
China, glass, cutlery
Washing-up bowl and equipment
Broom, bucket, dust pan, brushes, and dusters
Washing powders
Toilet soap
Polish and shoe polish

In fact, all cleaning materials normally used in the home. A most useful item is a spot remover or clothes cleaning fluid.

It is advisable to bring the usual contents of a home medicine chest, liver salts, aspirins, Elastoplast, cotton wool, antiseptic cream and an all-purpose antiseptic.

Notes for Women

15. During the season it is possible to dry clothes outdoors, so a clothes line and strong pegs should be brought. As strong winds can spring up in a moment, a watch must be kept that washing does not disappear seawards.

16. Food can be bought through the Government store. This is in no way a shop, but a written order is submitted and filled weekly for dry and tinned goods and frozen food. There are one or two items only of the latter. Spices, cake decorations, luxury goods etc., should be brought with you.

17. As there are many hours when the weather keeps one housebound it is advisable to bring knitting, embroidery or some such hobby, and, of course, sewing materials are essential. A good stock of cosmetics and personal necessities should be brought bearing in mind the possibility of there being five months without a supply ship calling.

/18. Warm

18. Warm slacks and hip-length jacket are necessary in winter. Good flat walking shoes are essential. The ground is very rough and covered with sharp stones so that heeled shoes are quickly ruined. Indoor clothes need only be lightweight as the central heating is thermostatically controlled and can be adjusted to individual preference. There are usually parties held at mid-winter, Christmas and New Year, so a short party dress is useful. There is a list further on of the equipment that men need here and it would be well to equip yourself with similar boots etc., before leaving Great Britain as those which are obtainable in Port Stanley are for men's wear mostly and too large for women.

19. Pot plants grow well indoors here and if the means of transport make it possible, it is worth bringing a few plants.

20. Whilst ski-ing is acknowledged to be a delightful sport, in South Georgia during the winter it is the only means of locomotion. It is quite impossible to walk through a great depth of soft snow, and therefore skis are an essential piece of equipment. Beginners need not be alarmed at the prospect of having to swoop down steep slopes or execute sharp turns straight away. The Point is on flat ground and there are plenty of very gentle slopes nearby where practice can be had before venturing further afield.

21. There follows a list of clothing and equipment which is necessary. It does not include the sundries which one would normally take for a protracted stay overseas. British Spring or Autumn clothing is quite suitable for the season here. Those items marked with an asterisk can now be bought in Port Stanley.

*Sea Boots or Wellingtons (large enough
to take thick socks).

*Thick socks (Oiled wool ones would double
as ski boot socks).

*Photography equipment including
developing and printing goods.

Sun glasses

Spare boot and shoe laces

Torch and batteries

Stout walking shoes or boots

Tennis shoes or similar. There is a very
rough hard tennis court.

*String Vests

Anorak or similar windproof garment

Heavy woollen jersey

Waterproof ski gloves

17/4/63

29

4th March,

66.

Dear Sirs,

I enclose a copy of a memorandum on the subject of special clothing for South Georgia personnel. This has a bearing on the notes on South Georgia enclosed with your letter M6/GEN 109/3 of the 10th June, 1965.

Yours faithfully,

RECEIVED 21 11 1963

fg

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations,
4, Millbank,
LONDON, S.W.1.

TM

file 16.1.67
(Amendments)
ca

THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE
QUOTED IN COMMUNICATIONS.

30

16/GEN 109/3

CROWN AGENTS
FOR OVERSEA GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS
"M" Department,
4. MILLBANK,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Telegrams: "Crown, London-S.W.1"
Telephone: Abbey 7730
Telex No. 24209

27th July, 1967



Dear Sir,

We enclose for your information a copy of the Notes on South Georgia which were approved in your letter D/4/63 of 28th July, 1965.

29 As two years have elapsed since these notes were last verified, will you please state whether they are still correct in all respects, particularly having regard to your letter D/4/63 of 4th March 1966, and to our letters of 31st March, 1966, (last paragraph) and 11th August, 1966. *no trace of receipt of both letters.*

We have sent a copy of this letter and enclosure to Captain D.J. Coleman, the Administrative Officer for South Georgia, who is at present on leave in the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,

Bu Chan lo.
for the Crown Agents.

See 31

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

L JS.
me

D/4/63

31

15th November,

67.

Dear Sirs,

30

31a I refer to your letter dated 27th July, reference
M6/GEN 109/3 and enclose herewith in duplicate up to
date Notes on South Georgia.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) H. L. Bound

for COLONIAL SECRETARY

Copy to A.O. South Georgia

Crown Agents for Oversea Governments & Administrations,
4, Millbank,
LONDON, S.W.1.

AA

SOUTH GEORGIAIntroductory Note.

1. In order that successful candidates may be suitably equipped for and have some idea of the island which is to be their home for the next eighteen months or so, the following notes have been compiled.
2. The conditions are those prevailing in November 1967. Some books are available from Public Libraries on the subject of South Georgia, but it should be remembered that these were written when whaling companies operated.
3. The island of South Georgia lies between 38 degrees 18 minutes and 35 degrees 40 minutes West, and between 54 degrees and 54 degrees 56 minutes South. Its geographical position is most misleading when considering climatic conditions, as although the Government station on King Edward Point lies in approximately the same latitude South as Edinburgh does in the North, our climate is much more severe than is likely to be experienced in that Scottish City. This is explained by the fact that the island lies within the Antarctic Convergence and so endures sub-Antarctic climate. During the "Summer" months the temperature has been known to rise to 23°C (75°F) and during the winter fall to -14°C (7°F).
4. There are no trees or shrubs of any kind but on the lower slopes of the hills there is a coarse Tussock grass and numerous brightly coloured mosses. The terrain is mountainous, the highest peak being that of Mount Paget at 9,765 feet. The island has been aptly named in the title of George Sutton's book "Glacier Island" as there are a great many glaciers, some running down to the sea. It is possible to go for limited walks, although perhaps a more apt description would be "scrambles" as there is very little flat land.
5. There are no shops, no roads and no vehicles other than Tractors for snow clearing. There is a rough path from the Government Station round the Bay to a whaling station.

6. Shipping opportunities are extremely limited. When a vessel arrives from Stanley she will bring stores and supplies which one can order from the several shops in Port Stanley. A telegram (2d per word) is usually sent a week or two before vessels are due to sail and the goods are shipped, to be paid for by remittance through the South Georgia Treasury.

7. In November or December one or both of the Royal Research Ships "John Biscoe" or "Shackleton" call here on their way to the British Antarctic Bases, bringing mail and stores. If the "Shackleton" goes to Port Stanley during the "Summer" she usually calls here to take the outward mail. Then, finally, at the end of the season when the Research ships return to Great Britain they call to take mail home.

8. During the "Summer" or "Season" as it is called here, there is a considerable amount of rain and low cloud, February being the worst month. From early October until January there are hundreds of Elephant Seals on the beaches of King Edward Point and in the adjacent Tussock. Gentoo and a few king penguins also visit the Point from time to time throughout the year. Those interested in Ornithology will find much to study, including various species of albatross and petrels.

9. Of Government personnel there are approximately fifteen when up to full strength, although this is seldom the case.

10. Bachelor staff are accommodated in "Shackleton" House. This building is sited on high ground overlooking Cumberland Bay East with magnificent views of the Allardyce Range and Mount Paget. Each man has his own room with central heating, hot and cold water, ample cupboard and drawer space, writing desk, settee and chair. There is a large Recreation Room with Billiards, Table Tennis, Card Tables and Darts provided. There is a light airy dining-room, and lounge. A pantry is provided for the preparation of individual night-time drinks. There are ample showers and baths. As photography is the most popular hobby in South Georgia a large darkroom is also provided.

11. Married officers are accommodated in warm, centrally-heated houses or bungalows. All are timber built, have modern kitchens and bathrooms, and are basically furnished in modern style. There follows a list of furniture and fittings provided and a list of those things which should be brought out by married officers, bearing in mind that there are no shops for last-minute purchases and few ships calling. However, if travelling via Port Stanley and it is known in advance that there will be sufficient time between arrival there and departure for onward transport to South Georgia, it is possible to buy cleaning materials and stores, also toilet necessities etc., in Port Stanley. It is essential to check with the Crown Agents whether in fact there will be sufficient time for such purchases as the ship which takes you from Montevideo to Port Stanley will also probably carry replenishments for the shops and they will have to be unloaded and distributed. The safest way is to take a small stock of everything you might possibly need, say for six months, and then re-order from Port Stanley in plenty of time.

12. Skis, sticks, bindings, ski-boots and wax are available in limited quantity from the Government Store. Articles of clothing necessary for winter wear should be obtained before leaving Great Britain.

13. Houses are equipped with:-

- Lounge furniture
- Dining furniture
- Bedroom furniture (two bedrooms)
- Beds, mattresses and pillows
- Carpets and rugs
- Curtains and pelmets
- Bookcase or shelves
- Washing machine to each house
- Vacuum cleaner between two houses
- Electric cooker
- Electric kettle
- Refrigerator
- Lampshades (electric bulbs supplied free)
- Saucepans

/14. Married

14. Married Officers should bring with them:-

AN EFFICIENT TIN OPENER AND A SPARE
Electric Iron (220 volts AC)
Frying Pan, cooking utensils and baking tins
Blankets and bed linen
Table linen
China, glass, cutlery
Washing-up bowl and equipment
Broom, bucket, dust pan, brushes, and dusters
Washing powders
Toilet soap
Polish and shoe polish

In fact, all cleaning materials normally used in the home.
A most useful item is a spot remover or clothes cleaning fluid.

It is advisable to bring the usual contents of a home medicine chest, liver salts, aspirins, Elastoplast, cotton wool, antiseptic cream and an all-purpose antiseptic.

Notes for Women

15. During the season it is possible to dry clothes outdoors, so a clothes line and strong pegs should be brought. As strong winds can spring up in a moment, a watch must be kept that washing does not disappear seawards.

16. Food can be bought through the Government store. This is in no way a shop, but a written order is submitted and filled weekly for dry and tinned goods and frozen food. There are one or two items only of the latter. Spices, cake decorations, luxury goods etc., should be brought with you.

17. As there are many hours when the weather keeps one housebound it is advisable to bring knitting, embroidery or some such hobby, and, of course, sewing materials are essential. A good stock of cosmetics and personal necessities should be brought bearing in mind the possibility of there being five months without a supply ship calling.

/18. Warm

18. Warm slacks and hip-length jacket are necessary in winter. Good flat walking shoes are essential. The ground is very rough and covered with sharp stones so that heeled shoes are quickly ruined. Indoor clothes need only be lightweight as the central heating is thermostatically controlled and can be adjusted to individual preference. There are usually parties held at mid-winter, Christmas and New Year, so a short party dress is useful. There is a list further on of the equipment that men need here and it would be well to equip yourself with similar boots etc., before leaving Great Britain as those which are obtainable in Port Stanley are for men's wear mostly and too large for women.

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Tennis shoes or similar. There is a very rough hard
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String vests.

Anorak or similar windproof garment.

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Waterproof ski gloves.