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P(54) 28

Previous Reference: P(54) 27

Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

The attached reports covering the period 15th June to 15th July, 1954, have been received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands and are circulated for the information of members of the Committee.

(Signed) Basil Greenhill

Secretary,  
Polar Committee.

Commonwealth Relations Office,  
Downing Street,

19th August, 1954.

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The main construction work on the new Base Hut is completed. The Radio Sonde programme commenced on the 1st July with the first ascent to 10,000 feet.

Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

Snow fell on most days during the first week and strong winds caused heavy drift, temperatures were generally below zero fahrenheit. The winds were mostly southerly during the second week with temperatures round freezing point.

The Bay is still ice free except for some brash, the visible part of Bransfield Strait remained ice free until the last week in June when the southerly wind brought some nine tenths coverage of light pack and a few isolated 'bergs.

Base 'H', Signy Island

A series of gales during the latter half of June broke up the local sea ice. One seal was killed and sledged back to the Base for dog food. The ceiling and walls of the laboratory were re-painted.

/South Georgia

friction on sledge runners although surfaces appeared quite good. The dogs were worked short days in low temperatures to avoid the danger of lung frosting; the only symptoms produced were occasional short coughs from bronchial irritation. Dogs became very tired and listless during low temperatures but appeared to be in good condition on return to Base.

Precious and Kenney left Base on the 13th August for Duse Bay. They intend to remain in the field for about 14 days to make a general reconnaissance with a view to extending the local survey.

The few good days enjoyed over the period were utilised on local survey work and short depot runs to Summit Pass for training young dogs.

#### Base 'F', Argentine Islands

Weather over the period was settled with temperatures between zero and  $-20^{\circ}$  F. The ice conditions were reported as fast ice to two miles north of the Base and then heavy consolidated pack to the horizon.

Daily Radio Sonde ascents were maintained.

#### Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

Strong easterly winds with heavy snow and drift and temperatures between  $10^{\circ}$  F. and  $-26^{\circ}$  F. prevailed on most days. The Bay is now fast ice some eighteen inches thick with a covering of deep slush. The Bransfield Strait is reported heavy pack to the limit of visibility.

Because of deep snow, travel was only possible on skis; on fine days however parties enjoyed ski trips to Stenhouse Bluff, Point Henniquin and Camp Depot. Three Weddell Seals were caught on the Bay ice and taken back to Base for dog food. Fishing parties caught a few *Notothenia* which made a welcome change of diet.

#### Base 'H', Signy Island

The weather over the period was reported as moderately good and a considerable number of days were spent in exercising the dogs and establishing a camp at North Point in readiness for the coming work of collecting Weddell Seal pup skins. Sea ice continued to form on the Bays during calm weather but disappeared again with each gale.

#### South Georgia

The Administrative Officer reported meteorological routines unchanged. Stonehouse and Bonner were visited by a whale catcher on the 31st July. They were both in good health and spirits and reported making good progress with their biological studies. Their wireless transmitting set, which had been out of action since early July, was completely overhauled and they were provided with a second set as a standby.

#### All Bases

All personnel are reported to be in good health except for minor ailments. Wireless and meteorological routines were maintained to schedule.

## FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

Report for the period 16th July to 25th August, 1954.

### Base 'A', Port Lockroy

The weather was mainly overcast with frequent gales first from the N.E. and later from the S.E. and temperatures round zero. The few fine days with clear skies and sunshine made a welcome change for personnel.

During calm periods young ice formed in the Bay but this was dispersed with every gale. An ice report received on the 14th August stated that sea ice in the Bay was strengthening, that the Peltier Channel was completely covered with light pack ice and young ice and that the Neumayer was ten-tenths covered with heavy pack ice and numerous ice bergs which had entered from the South.

Ionospheric routines continued without incident. The aerial system was damaged during a gale on the 30th July but was repaired almost immediately.

### Base 'B', Deception Island

The Base Leader reported the weather over the period as generally overcast and unpleasant with frequent gales from the E.N.E. causing heavy drift and reduced visibility. Temperatures were low with minimum down to  $-11^{\circ}$  F.

Ice was reported to be still fast in the Bays and around the shores of the Island and then some five-tenths light pack to the limit of visibility.

Parties exercised the dogs on the sea ice on the few fine days and on one occasion caught two seals. Work was mainly confined to indoor jobs.

A British party paid a social visit to the Argentine Base on the 1st August and received a return visit from them on the 9th

### Base 'D', Hope Bay

Blizzard conditions prevailed for most of the period. Ice re-formed in the Bay in mid-July and gradually consolidated. Antarctic Sound was reported ten-tenths covered with light to medium pack ice. Clarke and Standring were relieved at View Point Hut on the 18th July by Lewis and Mottershead who remained in occupation until the end of the month.

A party of four (Turner, Taylor, Standring and Leppard) left Hope Bay on the 30th July and reached a point eight miles south of Cape Longing on the 14th day out. A depot of 1,500 lbs. was laid on the shelf ice and the party then returned to Base and arrived on the 19th August. Brash and deep soft snow made the going very heavy for the first few days of the journey and the party had to lie-up for two days because of gales. The weather was chiefly notable for extreme low temperature which went down to a minimum of  $-50^{\circ}$  F. and averaged  $-8.6^{\circ}$  F. for the whole journey. Temperatures below  $-40^{\circ}$  F. produced greatly increased

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Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

The attached report for the period 16th July to 25th August has been received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands and is circulated for the information of members of the Committee.

(Signed) H. Smedley

for Basil Greenhill

Secretary  
Polar Committee

Commonwealth Relations Office,  
Downing Street.

21st September, 1954.

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north-easterly winds and temperatures just above freezing which produced numerous melt pools on the sea-ice and made several areas unsafe for travel. A number of open water leads appeared to the north of the Lemaire Channel.

The first Weddell pups were seen on the 13th September at Shelter and Three Little Pigs Islands.

Daily Radio Sondo ascents were maintained.

#### Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

Unpleasant weather prevailed over most of the period with rain, snow or drift on all days but three. The ice in Bransfield Strait was dispersed by the strong northerly winds leaving isolated icebergs only but the Bay ice remained level and fast.

The Hut was reported to be badly drifted over and much time was spent digging out windows and doors and a snow tunnel from the back door. Personnel completed a number of jobs indoors including making drawers and tool racks for the engine shed and painting the workshop.

Approximately a hundred Crabeater Seals in the rough proportion of two males to one female were observed on the 9th September on ice hummocks between Le Poing and the entrance to the Bay and in Ezcurra Inlet. A few pairs of Weddell Seals were seen on the sea ice but none with pups. Four seals were killed and sledged back to the Base for food.

#### Base 'H', Signy Island

The weather remained reasonably good over most of the period.

The work on Weddell seals commenced towards the end of August and some fifty seals were marked and eighteen pup skins collected for treatment.

#### South Georgia

The Administrative Officer reported that meteorological routines were unchanged and that the office had been re-decorated.

Stonehouse reported satisfactory progress with his biological work and that he has started the new season's work on Skua Gulls and Gentoo Penguins and a detailed inland survey from Rainbow Bay. The first Elephant Seal bull hauled out mid-September.

#### All Bases

Reported satisfactory accomplishment of wireless and meteorological schedules. Personnel are all well.

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## FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

Report for the period 26th August - 21st September, 1954

### Base 'A', Port Lockroy

The weather was mainly overcast with alternate north-easterly and south-westerly gales giving temperature variations between freezing point and 0° Fahrenheit. The pack ice in the Channels varied with the winds from open water to nine-tenths cover. All the fast ice in the Bay was dispersed except for a small area to the north and east of the Island.

Outside activities were limited because of the inclement weather but a number of indoor jobs were completed including engine overhauls and repainting the kitchen. All equipment including the ionospheric recorder was reported to be functioning satisfactorily.

### Base 'B', Deception Island

The weather continued mostly cold and unpleasant until mid-September when there was some improvement. The fast ice around the Island broke up during the first week in September and the patches of open water in Whaler's Bay gradually increased in size. A wide stretch of open water was reported stretching to the north running east/west to the limit of visibility. The pack ice to the south and round Livingstone Island is reported to be gradually thinning out.

A number of jobs were completed in and around the Base Hut and several ski trips made for ice observations.

### Base 'D', Hope Bay

Heavy snowfalls, gales and drifts prevailed over most of the period with some slight improvement towards the end. Most of the Bay remained covered with fast ice in spite of the numerous gales and high temperatures. Antarctic Sound was reported nine-tenths close pack.

Precious and Kenney returned to Base on the 25th August having completed a survey reconnaissance of the Duse Bay area. They visited View Point and caught three seals there.

A party of four, Turner, Taylor, Leppard and Standring left Base on the 2nd September to carry the Cape Longing Depot further south. They were laid up for three days at Boak Island by heavy snowfalls and four days at View Point by gales. They then reprovisioned and were reported to be 38 miles south of Cape Longing on the 18th September but still experiencing many days of high winds although snow surfaces were good.

Powell and Lewis were at Duse Bay between the 10th and 16th September hunting seals.

Local survey work continued on the few fine days as well as a number of short dog training runs to Summit Pass to depot stores.

### Base 'F', Argentine Islands

The weather remained cold but settled and the sea ice firm until the end of August. This was followed by a series of fresh

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Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

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(Signed) H. Smedley  
for Basil Greenhill

Secretary  
Polar Committee

Commonwealth Relations Office,  
Downing Street,

25th October, 1954.

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Base 'F', Argentine Islands

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Towards the end of 1952, Dr. Fuchs was asked to approach various bodies in the United Kingdom with a view to designing a dog record card system for use in the Dependencies. Suitable cards were printed and supplied to the Bases during the 1952/53 season together with instructions and the necessary steel number and letter stamps and blank brass collar tags. The scheme is now well established and is working smoothly.

Breeding results improved considerably during 1953 and the total strength of huskies held is now in the region of 90 animals.

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<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number of Lectures</u>	<u>Place</u>
Spivey	Geographical	15	Woking area
	"	14	Carshalton, Surrey
Fuchs	"	1	Cambridge
	"	1	London
Unwin	"	8	South West England

#### 10. LAND SURVEY

The two surveyors recruited for service at Hope Bay during 1954 and 1955 were sent on a short course of instruction under Mr. Stephenson (ex British Grahamland Expedition) at the Imperial College Summer School at Sellwood before being posted South. They were given training on making an astronomical fix and instruction in survey field methods used in polar regions. They also visited the Scientific Bureau and read the surveyors' reports relevant to Hope Bay area. Maps and information on this area were obtained for them from the Directorate of Colonial Surveys and copies of the relative trigonometrical scheme for Deception Island obtained from the Hydrographic Office.

K. Gooden (ex F.I.D.S.) was employed by the Directorate of Colonial Surveys for eight weeks in sorting out survey data from D. Mason's (ex F.I.D.S.) 1947 survey notes, also setting out the information so that it can be used by the Americans in connexion with Ronne's air photographic material. This was done in order to honour the agreement signed between Ronne and Pierce-Butler (ex F.I.D.S.) in 1947. The information now provided on the map sheets and in the notes was in response to a direct statement from the Americans of their needs. It is hoped that the provision of this information may induce them to provide us with a set of their air photographs which would be extremely useful to the Directorate of Colonial Surveys and for other purposes.

On the 26th November Dr. Fuchs attended a meeting at the Directorate of Colonial Surveys at which all available Dependencies cartographical material was examined and its value assessed. Decisions on the map production programme were taken. In the first place the Directorate of Colonial Surveys will complete the compilation of the whole 1/200,000 series and the production of new 1/500,000 sheets for the Marguerite Bay - Alexander Land area.

Dr. Fuchs provided new names, descriptions of features etc., to Dr. Roberts, Secretary of the Place Names Committee and together they worked through some hundreds of names, to which the Americans had agreed, for presentation to the Committee.

#### 11. HUSKY DOGS

A comprehensive set of instructions on the care and maintenance of sledge dogs was added to Operational Instructions at the beginning of 1953.

8. The Elephant Seal  
I. Growth and Age R.M. Laws, M.A.
9. New Evidence of Sea-Level  
Changes in the Falkland Islands R.J. Adie, B.Sc.,  
Ph.D.
10. The Emperor Penguin  
II. Embryology T.W. Glenister,  
M.B., B.S.

The number of copies sold up to the end of December was between 70 and 80 copies of each report.

A number of articles written by F.I.D.S. and ex F.I.D.S. personnel were published in various journals including the "Polar Record" and "Nature".

### Lectures

Lectures were given in various parts of the British Isles as follows:-

<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number of Lectures</u>	<u>Place</u>
Sladen	Adelie Penguins and Geographical	3	Oxford
	Adelie Penguins and Geographical	4	London area
	Adelie Penguins and Geographical	1	Birmingham
	Adelie Penguins and Geographical	1	Wellington
	Zoological	1	London
	Geographical	1	Oxford
	Ornithological	2	Belfast
	"	1	London
	"	1	Oxford
Scadding	Geographical	1	Isle of Wight
Adie	"	1	Cambridge
	Geological	1	Cambridge
Stonehouse	Geographical	5	London
Andrew	"	2	London
Spivey	"	25	Birmingham district
	"	12	Walsall, Staffs
	"	127	London area
	"	13	Nottingham

R. Stoneley returned to the United Kingdom from the Dependencies in early 1953 and was retained by the Bureau until the 7th October to complete a detailed report on his geological work. In the course of his laboratory work he discovered a number of foraminifera in the sediments from West James Ross Island. These were submitted to a specialist as they may provide additional evidence regarding the age of the sediments.

A. Mansfield was retained during 1953 for work on the Weddell Seal and to write a paper on South Georgia meteorology.

#### Other Scientific Work and Specimens

Professor Tilley of the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology agreed to his staff making 150 rock slides from the materials collected from King George Island; Dr. W. Campbell is to study them and the British Museum (Natural History) to make the analysis.

The United Kingdom Government Chemist undertook to examine 14 water samples derived from surface snow and snow taken from 12 inches below the surface at Hope Bay.

Some 7,000 geological specimens were tested with a geiger counter without any significant result.

A small specimen of an apparently very rich copper ore collected in 1916 from below Copper Peak on Wiencke Island is to be assayed.

Typical collections of rocks from Hope Bay and Marguerite Bay areas were deposited in the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology at Cambridge together with detailed information about them. Over 700 rock slides from the same source were also incorporated into the Department's collection.

#### Publications

The following F.I.D.S. Scientific Reports were published during the year:-

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Organisation and Methods   | V.E. Fuchs, M.A.,<br>Ph.D.       |
| 2. A new Method of Age Determination<br>in Mammals with Special Reference<br>to the Elephant Seal | R.M. Laws, M.A.                  |
| 3. The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopod<br>Fauna of Grahamland   | L.F. Spath, D.Sc.,<br>F.R.S.     |
| 4. Lower Cretaceous Gastropoda,<br>Lamellibranchia and Annelida<br>from Alexander I Land          | L.R. Cox, M.A.,<br>Sc.D., F.R.S. |
| 5. Fossil Penguins from the<br>Mid-Tertiary of Seymour Island                                     | B.J. Marples, M.A.<br>M.Sc.      |
| 6. The Emperor Penguin<br>I. Breeding, Behaviour and<br>Development                               | Bernard Stonehouse               |
| 7. The Geology of South Georgia I   | A.F. Trendall,<br>B.Sc., Ph.D.   |

## 9. SCIENTIFIC BUREAU

As from the 1st April, 1953 the Falkland Islands Dependencies Scientific Bureau became an integral part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.

### General

The Bureau provided information on request to a number of individuals and government departments including the Foreign Office, N.I.O., Admiralty and the Ministry of Defence.

B. Stonehouse and his assistant N. Bonner worked at the Bureau planning their expedition to South Georgia from the 1st July until their departure. The Emperor Penguin and chick brought from Marguerite Bay by Stonehouse in 1949 and later set up for exhibition at the Festival of Britain was presented to the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Examples of F.I.D.S. field survey sheets and various pieces of equipment were lent to the Scientific Museum from April to the 17th January, 1954 for showing at the Exhibition of Navigation.

Dr. R.V. Hesketh, recruited by Rear Base as Scientific Officer for the geophysical programme at the Argentine Islands, was attached to the Bureau from the 16th November. Dr. Fuchs is to arrange for Hesketh to attend various Departments and Institutions for instructions on the maintenance and operation of the various equipments. R.J.F. Taylor was attached to the Bureau from July until his departure for the Dependencies in October, preparing for his studies on dog haulage, nutrition and physiology. He visited various firms and organisations in connexion with the design and manufacture of a special winch for control testing of frictional resistance values for different sledge runner materials over the various snow and ice surfaces met in the Antarctic.

### Retained Personnel and their work

Dr. W.J.L. Sladen continued his studies of the Adelle penguin through 1953 working under Dr. Lack at Oxford. Sladen's film, "The Life History of the Adelle Penguin" was shown to the Zoological Society of London and at the International Film Festival and was very well received. He has designed an improved type of ring for use on the Giant Skua and penguins and, working in conjunction with Dr. Fuchs and Secretary, F.I.D.S. has produced a bird ringing scheme suitable for application in the Dependencies.

R.M. Laws completed his service with the Survey at the end of September and his work has since been published in four separate F.I.D.S. Scientific Reports entitled "The Elephant Seal". He was granted a Cambridge Ph.D. for his work. A large collection of Elephant Seal skulls collected by Laws were presented to the British Museum; Miss King of the Zoological Department is to write a paper on the morphology of these skulls.

R.J. Adie also finished his work with the Survey at the end of September and his work is to be published in six separate F.I.D.S. Scientific Reports entitled "The Petrology of Grahamland". He was also granted a Cambridge Ph.D. for this work.

north-west extremity of Dundee Island and walked some two to three miles to the Argentine Base, which was found to be occupied by three men. A written protest was handed to the leader but he nervously refused this saying his was only a sub-Base and the Commander was stationed at Hope Bay. The British party then returned to the R.R.S. "John Biscoe"; the vessel called at Hope Bay for mail and sailed to Stanley arriving on the 23rd December.

6. METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

See Annual Report for 1953 which follows under separate cover.

7. HEADQUARTERS AND REAR BASE:

F.K. Elliott	Secretary
J.R. Green	Assistant Secretary (Stores Section)
Miss R.M. Gurd	Chief Clerk (Personal Assistant to Governor)
Miss P.M. Northwood	General Clerk
Miss C. Rowlands	Stores Clerk
J.B. Browning	Storekeeper
Mrs. F. Roberts	Office Assistant (Rear Base)

Staff Housing

The Secretary's house was completed and occupied from the 6th December, 1953. Another house was purchased towards the end of the year which has been extensively modernised and repaired and will soon be occupied by the Senior Meteorological Assistant. A prefabricated bungalow purchased in the United Kingdom, arrived by F.I.C. Charter Vessel in December and is being erected for the Assistant Secretary.

Recruitment

The new salary scales, by which the Duty Allowance was consolidated in the salary, look more attractive and were introduced in time for the 1953 recruiting season. More applicants resulted especially for General Assistant, Meteorological Observer, Diesel Electric Mechanic and Wireless Operator Mechanic vacancies. Choice of applicants had been very restricted for the previous two or three years but this increase in the number of applicants has resulted in a marked improvement in the type of persons selected.

Polar Medals

Some forty-five F.I.D.S. and ex F.I.D.S. personnel attended Investitures at Buckingham Palace during October and received the Polar Medal from Her Majesty the Queen.

8. HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY

The practice of carrying a Royal Naval Survey Unit on the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" was discontinued at the end of the 1951/52 season. However the Master and Officers of the vessel continued to make observations and sights in the Dependencies as opportunity offered and much of the information required by the Hydrographer (your Savingram No.2 Colony of the 8th January, 1953, refers) was collected during the 1952/53 and 1953/54 seasons.

During the voyage over a week was spent at the Argentine Islands laying the foundations for the new Base Hut. The main building at Admiralty Bay was in such a state of disrepair that part of it had to be pulled down and re-erected on new foundations.

This voyage, first delayed by the mishap at Darwin and then by difficult ice conditions, was the last of the season and the vessel sailed for the United Kingdom on the 11th May and arrived at Southampton on the 11th June.

On her return it became known that Her Majesty the Queen had been pleased to approve the redesignation of the Survey Vessel as Royal Research Ship. The R.R.S. "John Biscoe" was also invited to take part in the Coronation Royal Naval Review and work on painting the hull started almost immediately. She was ready just in time and took up her position next to the Canadian Ice Breaker Diberville; a fitting climax to a trying but successful season.

The annual refit and loading was completed by the 1st October when she left Southampton for the 1953/54 annual relief of Bases. The R.R.S. "John Biscoe" left on her first southern voyage on the 9th November and relieved all Bases except the Argentine Islands. Light pack ice was encountered on the way to Admiralty Bay within a radius of 20 miles of North Foreland and Cape Melville and heavy pack on the way to Deception Island from Castle Rock to within one mile of the Bellows. Port Foster was still fast ice and Whalers Bay about three tenths pack ice. The Base Mechanic Arthur Farrant died on the 17th November, the eve of the vessel's arrival at Deception Island, and was buried on the 22nd November. The inquest and burial service were conducted by Captain Johnston.

Because of ice conditions H.M.S. Nereide was unable to reach Deception Island to land a contingent of Royal Marines; consequently the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" had to rendezvous with her off Cape Melville to transfer the men and their baggage for onward transport to Deception Island via Admiralty Bay. The Marines were landed early on the 30th November before the vessel sailed for Port Lockroy where she arrived late the same evening. Light pack ice and brash was encountered on the passage.

All stores were discharged by the 2nd December and the vessel left for Hope Bay. This Base was relieved and a survey and geological party together with their dogs and equipment transported across to Joinville Island. The "John Biscoe" finally sailed for Signy Island on the 7th December.

Numerous large grounded icebergs were seen between Hope and Bransfield Islands and along the northern coast of D'Urville Island. Many areas of pack ice were avoided on passage towards Signy by detours to the northward. Signy Island was reached on the 9th and cleared by the 11th December when course was set for South Georgia where on arrival bunker fuel, fresh water and gas oil in drums were loaded.

The vessel cleared South Georgia on the 15th December and was instructed to set course for Dundee Island, to investigate an Argentine Base there. The passage was made in foul weather conditions and course had to be altered continuously northwards to avoid pack ice. Active Sound was found to be completely covered with thick fast ice but a party was landed on the

"Polar Maid" and arrived at South Georgia on the 10th October. On arrival Bonner reported sick and on the 13th it was found necessary to remove a perforated gangrenous appendix with localised peritonitis present.

Bonner made steady progress towards recovery but had to be left behind at Leith Harbour Hospital for another three weeks when Stonehouse moved to the Bay of Isles on the 29th October taking with him a temporary assistant locally engaged. Their hut was erected in Ample Bay and biological studies started almost immediately. Gentoo and King Penguin embryos were collected and despatched to the Scientific Bureau. King Penguins were marked and behaviour studies started. Plankton runs made along the shore produced interesting results. A detailed map of the area was completed and a general map of the Bay of Isles well in hand by the end of December. A weather log was kept and observations taken daily.

The party is to remain at the Bay of Isles until early 1955.

#### 4. HEALTH AND MORALE

As in 1952 the health of Survey personnel was very good except for minor ailments and the case reported in my Confidential telegram No. 115 FIDEP of the 3rd September, 1953. Morale appears to have been particularly high at all Bases during 1953. The death of A.H. Farrant reported in my telegram No. 149 FIDEP of the 18th November, 1953 had a depressing effect on Base B for a time but this soon disappeared when new personnel arrived.

#### 5. THE RELIEF OF BASES

##### First Southern Voyage

The S.V. "John Biscoe" left Port Stanley on the 24th November and returned on the 17th December, 1952 after relieving Bases D, B, G and H in that order and visiting Grytviken and Leith Harbour at South Georgia. Practically no ice was seen during the voyage.

##### Second Southern Voyage

The S.V. "John Biscoe" left Stanley for her second voyage on the 13th January, 1953 but unfortunately ran aground at Darwin, where she had called to load provisions, and sustained serious damage to her rudder and steering gear. The engineers were able to make temporary repairs on the spot and the vessel was then able to return to Stanley for further examination. It was found necessary to send her to Montevideo for dry-docking and repairs before she sailed south again. Further temporary repairs were made in Stanley to make her sufficiently seaworthy for the 1,000 mile journey. All cargo was unloaded and she left on the 22nd January. Repairs were put in hand immediately on arrival in Montevideo. Repairs were completed very quickly and the vessel returned to Stanley for re-loading. She finally sailed for the Dependencies on the 25th February. All Bases and South Georgia were visited and the annual relief completed. Heavy pack ice was encountered between Port Lockroy and the Argentine Islands and at one time the vessel was beset off Doumer Island for four days. Wide detours had to be made after leaving Hope Bay for Signy Island to avoid heavy consolidated pack. She was again beset on the 3rd April for 18 hours off Bridgeman Island. The ship returned to Port Stanley on the 24th April.

The Base was visited by the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" during the 1952/53 summer on the 3rd December, 1952 and the 28th February, 27th March and the 13th April, 1953.

(f) Base 'H', Signy Island

As at Admiralty Bay the work at Base mainly centred round the meteorological programme and 79 pilot balloon ascents were successfully completed. Sea ice conditions between Signy and Coronation Island were disappointing and it was only secure between early July and the middle of August. However when the ice was there good use was made of it and several sledge journeys were made to Coronation Island. Rock specimens were collected from all parts visited and a collection made of the metamorphic rocks of Signy Island. On the request of the Scientific Bureau certain data about Weddell Seals were collected, including nose/tail measurements and specimens of teeth, flipper nails and skulls. A short report on the parturition of a Weddell Seal, illustrated by the actual photographs taken, was prepared by Owen. Routine seal counts were made during the year and an ornithological log kept.

(g) South Georgia

South Georgia Expedition

This expedition, organised and led by Duncan Carse, was financed from Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey funds. The four members (D. Carse, Leader, K. Warburton, Medical Officer, A.F. Trendall, Geologist and G. Smillie, Surveyor) together with all their baggage and equipment reached South Georgia on the 10th October. Unfortunately on arrival Warburton was found to be suffering from a duodenal ulcer and although he regained reasonably good health after treatment in Leith Harbour Hospital, was never fit enough to take any part in the sledge journeys. He was returned to England in January, 1954.

During October Carse laid depots with the help of the sealers while Smillie and Trendall geologised in the Dartmouth Point area. The party left Grytviken at the end of October on their main northern journey and reached Cape North and Schieper Bay. Results were only moderately successful because of difficult travel conditions, extremely bad weather and only having three in the party. They returned to Grytviken on the 19th December.

The party started out on their main southern journey on the 12th January, 1954 and returned after 38 days in the field. The weather was very good but the country proved too precipitous for travel and was impassable beyond Drygalski Fjord. Survey results were disappointing but geological results excellent, a great deal of data being collected on the igneous complex of the area. It was established by astronomical fix that Cape Vahsel is some  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.S.E. of its charted position with a general tendency to sympathetic movement in the rest of the southern end of the Island. Smillie left South Georgia for England on the 15th March, 1954 but Carse and Trendall stayed on and made a further journey to the Royal Bay/Gold Harbour area. They successfully completed a trigonometrical tie-up between their 1951/52 and 1953/54 survey work and did some additional geology. Carse and Trendall left for England on the 17th April, 1954.

Survey of King Penguins

B. Stonehouse (Biologist) and his assistant N.W. Bonner left Glasgow for South Georgia on the 29th August, 1953 in the

The main occupation during the year was meteorology. In addition to the normal observational routine, experimental work was carried out on the Gill low pressure hydrogen generator and in connexion with pilot balloon tail ascents. A number of snow flake crystals were fixed and a collection of fifty slides resulted. A total of 119 pilot balloon ascents were made.

Results from the Gill generator were disappointing; what proved to be a dangerous combination of chemicals in attempts to generate hydrogen, resulted in two explosions. The experience gained however led to the perfection of the technique for operation during 1954.

Some bird ringing was undertaken and a number of *Chionis Alba* (Sheathbill), *Catharacta Skua* (Skua) and *Phalacrocorax Atriceps* (Shag) were ringed.

The scheme for H. Smith to obtain fifty seal pup skins failed because of the dearth of pupping Weddells. None were taken but counts were made and they were all sexed when circumstances permitted, that is on all occasions except when they were unapproachable because of rotten sea ice. Seals generally were found to be very scarce in the area for most of the year and it was even found difficult to provide food for the few dogs maintained.

A number of short journeys were made during the year mainly for the purpose of seal hunting and ice observations. The sea froze over very quickly after the departure of the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" and journeys were made to Cape Tuxen on the 4th and 19th April. A three day man-hauling trip was made to Booth Island between the 23rd and 25th April to make ice observations; the Bismark Strait was completely ice free. The most northerly position reached on the trip was Port Charcot, the wintering station of the "Francais" in 1904; a large cairn, beehive in shape, erected on that occasion on the ridge above the small harbour was found to be in excellent condition.

During June and July a number of seal hunting trips were made to the various adjacent islands and on the 27th July from Clayton Hill on Petermann Island open water was observed to have reached the northern end of Hovgaard Island.

A trip was made to the mainland in early September for ice observations. By this time open water had reached as far south as Petermann Island and further journeys were considered impossible.

(e) Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

Routine meteorological observations and wireless schedules were maintained throughout the year. Again much time and labour was spent on maintenance and repairs to the Base Hut. A new store shed, prefabricated in Stanley, was erected during the 1952/53 summer.

Personnel found recreation in skiing, occasional trips on the sea ice exercising the dogs and numerous walks around the peninsula and over the Kellar Range. Towards the end of the year a number of trips were made to Point Thomas to collect penguin eggs. Personnel have taken a keen interest in photography and painting.

### Medical Research

The medical officer continued with urinary Vitamin C observations but because of his long absences from Base on sledge journeys there still remains much work to be done on the subject.

### Meteorology

Full routine observations and climatological work was carried out throughout the year. A new anemometer tower was erected towards the end of December, 1952 to replace the original one destroyed by the wind during 1952. The new tower withstood frequent hurricane force winds during the year without sustaining damage. Experimental recording wind instruments and a "Dewcell" recorder were installed in March. Work on the instruments took up a considerable amount of time but results, except in the case of the recording volt meter (wind speed) were unsatisfactory because of electrical faults. Snowflake fixation was undertaken whenever possible and 106 pilot balloon ascents were successfully completed.

Nearly all months during the year were characterised by high mean winds. The month of May, which in 1952 was by far the windiest month, proved the opposite in 1953 with calms recorded for nearly one third of the observations. A gust of 128 knots was recorded on the 30th April and over a period of eight hours at the time there was a continuous mean wind of 80 knots. The monthly mean temperatures were roughly comparable with those of 1952, though the lowest minimum temperature of -14 F was considerably higher than the lowest minima for several months of the previous year. Snowfall was heaviest during August and least during July and September.

### Ornithology

The first penguins were seen in the rookery to the west of the Base Hut during the last week in September and they returned in full force during the second week in October. The first eggs were found on the 5th November and later approximately 1,400 were collected. The Argentine Base members also collected eggs, but by arrangement between the British Base Leader and the Argentine Commander a limit was set of 1,500 eggs for each Base. It was also agreed that personnel from visiting ships would not be allowed to collect eggs.

Approximately 300 birds were killed for dog food during the year. Some counts and observations were made towards the end of the year. The amount of travelling done this year from this base was highly satisfactory and reflects credit on the base leader and others concerned.

#### (d) Base 'F', Argentine Islands

The Base was relieved in 1953 on the 7th March and until the "John Biscoe" left again the important work for all concerned was the building of foundations for the proposed new hut on Marina Point.

(vi) Combined Depot, Survey and Geological Journey to Cape Longing

Depot Party:	Marsh and Powell
Duration:	3rd to 24th October, 1953 - 22 days
Miles Travelled:	216
Survey Party:	Blaiklock and Stratton
Duration:	3rd to 30th October - 28 days
Miles Travelled:	240
Geological Party:	Standring and Coley
Duration:	3rd to 30th October - 28 days
Miles Travelled:	220

The plan was for a combined party to place a depot in the vicinity of Cape Longing for use on a survey journey to Evan's Inlet in 1954, to make an astronomical fix at Persson Island, to run a traverse up Victory Glacier, to spend a week geologising in the Cape Longing area with a view to throwing more light on the relationship between the Trinity Peninsula series and the mesozoic sediments in the area and to move a depot from Azimuth Hill to a more suitable position at Pitt Point. All these tasks were completed as well as three hourly meteorological observations throughout the journey.

(vii) Survey and Geology of Joinville and adjacent Islands

Party:	Blaiklock, Stratton, Standring and Taylor (new recruit)
Duration:	7th December, 1953 to 3rd February, 1954 - 59 days
Miles Travelled:	210

The plan was for the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" to transport a fully equipped party of four men and two dog teams to Joinville Island to make topographical and geological surveys of the Island and as much as possible of the adjacent Islands.

The party was landed with little trouble and set up base depot camp three miles north-west of Cape Kinnes. A week was spent relaying loads inland and then two journeys were made round the Island during which the majority of the survey and geology was completed, with the exception of the Firth of Tay shore. Most of the rock outcrops on Joinville were visited and the greater part of the Island found to be composed of sediments of the Trinity Peninsula series with some intrusions. On the north-east coast a narrow band of conglomerates similar to the Jurassic conglomerates seen in the northern end of the Peninsula, yielded a few poor plant fossils and were downfaulted against the older sediments.

Regular meteorological observations were maintained during the journey and sea ice observations transmitted to Hope Bay when observed. A number of adult penguins and chicks were weighed at the base depot camp rookery.

had been obscured by low cloud during the 1947 journey to Marguerite Bay. Geology was to be undertaken as time and circumstances permitted. A 1,200 lb. depot had been placed on Burn Murdoch Nunatak during 1952 and it was planned to take on sufficient food for a 40 day journey from there.

The first start was abortive because bad weather forced the party to lie up at View Point for four days. They returned to Hope Bay for more provisions and made a fresh start on the 4th May. The overland route previously used in April was followed to Beehive Nunatak from where part of the depot was collected, and a considerably shorter route was found across Russell and Victory Glaciers to Pitt Point. The survey of Robertson and Jason Islands was completed but there was insufficient time to complete the survey of the mainland coast. Geological examinations were made at Robertson and Jason Islands and the Seal Nunataks. Jason Island proved to be largely composed of microgranites probably intruded into the Trinity Peninsula sediments. This mid-winter journey of 756 miles was a noteworthy achievement.

(v) Journey to James Ross Island

Support Party:	Tait and King
Duration:	6th to 11th August - 6 days
Miles Travelled:	100
Geological Party:	Coley and Standring
Duration:	6th August to 10th September, 1953 - 36 days
Miles Travelled:	300
Survey Party:	Blaklock and Stratton
Duration:	6th August to 15th September, 1953 - 41 days
Miles Travelled:	350

The object of the journey was to complete the survey of the southern half of James Ross Island, to make an astronomical fix at Snow Hill Island, to circumnavigate James Ross Island and ascend Mount Haddington. The geological party were to examine Seymour, Snow Hill and Cockburn Island, the Naze and the cliffs north of the Bay by Hidden Lake.

The proposed plan was for the parties to travel together as far as Cape Lachman when the support party would return to Hope Bay and the survey and geological parties work separately.

All the objects of the journey were completed as well as some contouring of the ice cap and visits by the geological party to a number of outcrops on James Ross Island. Cretaceous and Tertiary sediments were studied and a collection of Cretaceous fossils made.

Party: Coley and Kemp  
Duration: 20th to 29th July, 1953 - 10 days  
Miles Travelled: 25

Party: Marsh and Tait  
Duration: 23rd August to 3rd September - 12 days  
Miles Travelled: 25

Party: Brookfield and Kemp  
Duration: 17th September to 1st October, 1953 -  
15 days  
Miles Travelled: 30

The hut was erected during the months of May, June and July. The timber and accessories were sledged to the tide crack at the foot of Last Hill by various parties from Base going to collect seal meat. The materials were sledged across Duse Bay to the site by Tait and Powell who also erected the framework and completed the outside boarding. It is interesting to note that the temperature averaged  $-12^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit during these operations. Brookfield and Tait completed the interior of the hut. The site chosen is an excellent one from the sealing point of view as seals have been observed in that area practically all the year round. For meteorological observations the exposure is very good although visibility to the south and south-east is limited because of the height of the cliffs on the northern side of View Point.

(iii) Reconnaissance Overland Route and Depot Laying  
Journey to Russell Glacier

Party: Marsh, Blaiklock, Standring and  
Stratton  
Duration: 24th March to 3rd April, 1953 -  
11 days  
Miles Travelled: 120

The party travelled by the usual route from Hope Bay to Duse Bay and thence across the sea ice to View Point. A good safe overland route via Broad Valley was then followed to Beehive Nunatak, where the depot was laid, and an easy route found across Russell Glacier.

(iv) Journey to Jason Island

Party: Marsh, Blaiklock, Standring and  
Stratton  
Duration: 27th April to 2nd May (false start)  
and then 4th May to 17th July -  
81 days  
Miles Travelled: 756 including false start

The object of the journey was for a combined survey and geological party to travel south to the Jason Islands via Cape Longing and the Seal Nunataks. Survey was concerned with the areas:- Robertson and Jason Islands and that part of the mainland coast which

Most of the 1953 personnel, including the Base Leader and Surveyors, had already served through 1952, so the work during 1953 was generally a continuation of the work done the previous year.

### Sledging

The following journeys were undertaken:-

#### (i) Local Survey and Geology

Party: Blaiklock, Stratton, Stoneley  
(relieved later 1952/53 season)  
and Coley  
Duration: 28th December, 1952 to  
3rd January, 1953 - 7 days  
Miles Travelled: 50

The plan was to extend the local Survey and Geology to the Thimble Peak area but little was achieved because of low cloud. Progress was made during the year with the triangulation of the Base area.

#### (ii) Journeys in Connexion with the erection and occupation of View Point Hut

Party: Blaiklock and Marsh  
Duration: 7th to 13th February, 1953 - 7 days  
Miles  
Travelled: 50

Party: Kemp and Powell  
Duration: 7th to 25th February, 1953 - 19 days  
Miles  
Travelled: 60

Party: Stratton and Coley  
Duration: 20th February to 11th March, 1953 - 20 days  
Miles  
Travelled: 60

Party: Blaiklock and Brookfield  
Duration: 7th to 19th March, 1953 - 13 days  
Miles  
Travelled: 60

Party: Tait and Powell  
Duration: 11th to 20th May, 1953 - 10 days  
Miles  
Travelled 110

Party: Tait and Powell  
Duration: 29th May to 13th June, 1953 - 16 days  
Miles  
Travelled: 60

Party: Tait and Brookfield  
Duration: 16th June to 2nd July, 1953 - 17 days  
Miles  
Travelled: 50

3. WORK AT BASES

(a) Base 'A', Port Lockroy

This Base continued with the Ionospheric programme and made continuous observations throughout the year except for two short breaks of 12 and 18 hours caused by minor faults in the equipment.

The manual equipment was operated at three-hourly intervals until March when the fully automatic equipment supplied through the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research was installed. The equipment made observations every hour and ran continuously with surprisingly little attention. The results followed similar trends to those observed during 1952.

The Auto-Diesel Generators were overhauled by the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" engineers during the 1952/53 summer and ran continuously, 24 hours daily, during 1953.

An extension was built to the Base Hut to provide an office and radio room and so allow sufficient space in the original radio/ionospheric room to house the new equipment.

Routine meteorological observations were made at six-hourly intervals.

(b) Base 'B', Deception Island

As in 1952 most of the work at this Base was meteorological. Schedules were maintained in spite of the Base being understaffed; one man was returned to Stanley at the beginning of the year and another was incapacitated for several months during the year by illness. Fifty-nine pilot balloon ascents were completed during the year.

The loft of the main hut was fitted out to accommodate a contingent of Royal Marines during the 1952/53 summer and was again used by the relief contingent during the 1953/54 summer.

Two Surveyors, recruited for service at Hope Bay during 1954, were temporarily posted to Deception Island for the 1953/54 summer. They were provided with equipment and materials by the Director of Colonial Surveys before leaving England and made a complete topographical survey of the Island. Base personnel and Royal Marines assisted them to set up camps at various places on the Island; stores and equipment were moved by a combination of small boats and sledges (both man and dog hauled).

(c) Base 'D', Hope Bay

The year 1953 proved a very full one for this Base. It started with many structural improvements to the Base Hut which greatly increased the warmth and comfort. A second store/emergency hut was erected in order to house more stores under cover than hitherto. In order to provide sufficient seal meat for dog food it was decided to maintain two men and one or two teams of dogs in Duse Bay as often as possible. To make their lot easier a small living hut was erected at View Point as a convenient centre. The hut was prefabricated in Stanley, delivered to Hope Bay by the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" and transported to the site by dog sledge. The hut was erected by Base personnel and occupied for considerable periods during the year. Radio and meteorological equipment was provided and observations transmitted thrice daily to Stanley via Hope Bay. The results provided an interesting comparison between the weather on each side of Trinity Peninsula.

Base	Name	Age	Appointment
Hope Bay	G.W. Marsh	27	Medical Officer/ Base Leader
	A.J. Standring	26	Geologist
	K.V. Blaiklock	25	Surveyor
	D.G. Stratton	26	Assistant Surveyor
	B. Kemp	22	Meteorological Assistant (Senior Duties)
	J.A. Coley	23	Meteorological Assistant
	G.H. Brookfield	32	Meteorological Observer
	M.F. Tait	29	Meteorological Observer
	K.E.C. Powell	25	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	P.W. King	31	Wireless Operator Mechanic
Argentine Islands	D.A. Barrett	20	Meteorological Observer/Base Leader
	F.L. Johnson	23	Meteorological Assistant (Senior Duties)
	H. Smith	27	Meteorological Observer
	D.A. Clarke	21	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	W.T. Kelley	32	Wireless Operator Mechanic
Admiralty Bay	R.F. Worswick	25	Meteorological Assistant/Base Leader (Senior Duties)
	R.J. Banks	23	Meteorological Observer
	G.E. Hemmen	27	Meteorological Observer
	B.L. Golborne	23	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	J. Turnbull	33	Wireless Operator Mechanic
Signy Island	A.G. Tritton	21	Meteorological Observer/Base Leader
	R.A. Berry	23	Meteorological Assistant (Senior Duties)
	D. Parsons	20	Meteorological Assistant
	R.J. Tanton	25	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	T.G. Owen	24	Wireless Operator Mechanic

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE  
FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY  
FOR 1953

1. DISTRIBUTION OF BASES

The Survey maintained the following Bases during the year:-

Place Name	Base Letter	Geographical Position		Establishment
		Lat. S.	Long. W.	
Port Lockroy, Palmer Archipelago	A	64.50	63.31	5
Deception Island, South Shetlands	B	62.59	60.34	5
Hope Bay, Grahamland	D	63.24	56.59	10
Argentine Islands, Biscoe Archipelago	F	65.15	64.16	5
Admiralty Bay, South Shetlands	G	62.03	58.24	5
Signy Island, South Orkneys	H	60.43	45.36	5

The distribution and staffing of Bases for 1953 was basically the same as in 1952; a sixth man was posted to Deception Island but he had to be returned to Stanley for a minor operation which prevented him from returning to the Dependencies until the 1953/54 summer.

2. PERSONNEL

Base	Name	Age	Appointment
Port Lockroy	W.S.P. Ward	33	Scientific Assistant/ Base Leader
	F.G. Bird	25	General Assistant
	A.H. Martin	27	General Assistant/ Meteorological Observer
	G.G. Collop	28	Wireless Operator Mechanic
	H.J. Robinson	24	Diesel Electric Mechanic
Deception Island	I.W.N. Clarke	27	Meteorological Observer/ Base Leader
	D.J. George	24	Meteorological Assistant (Senior Duties)
	F.A. Hall	20	Meteorological Assistant
	A.H. Farrant	39	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	B. Taylor	29	Wireless Operator Mechanic

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

ANNUAL REPORT 1953

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Restricted

P(54)34

Previous Reference: P(54)33

Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

The attached annual report for 1953 has been received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands and is circulated for the information of members of the committee.

(Signed) H. Smedley  
for Basil Greenhill

Secretary  
Polar Committee

Commonwealth Relations Office,  
Downing Street.

5th November, 1954.

4 copies sent to E.A.  
by Surface Mail under  
comp slip dated  
13.11.54. J.B.

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COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE  
Downing Street, S.W.1

With the Compliments of the  
Under Secretary of State  
for Commonwealth Relations.

*Mr van Kesteren*  
*H*  
*13/11*

1953

Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

report for 1953 has been  
sent to the Secretary of the Falkland Islands  
Survey for the information of members

CRO.2

(Signed) H. Smedley  
for Basil Greenhill

Secretary  
Polar Committee

Commonwealth Relations Office,  
Downing Street.

5th November, 1954.

*4 copies sent to EA.  
by Surface Mail under  
comp slip dated  
13.11.54. J.B.*

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F.2.O. Tel. D U.K.A.C., Pretoria

2. No. 14. SAVING CONFIDENTIAL

10th November, 1954.

ANTARCTICA: RENEWAL OF TRIPARTITE NAVAL  
DECLARATIONS

We have agreed with the Argentines whose expedition is now ready to sail and the Chileans to renew the Tripartite Naval Declarations in the same terms and according to the same procedure as last year. This will be done on November 12th, when a press release will also be issued in identical terms except for the change of date to that issued last year.

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7.5.17/104

C.R.O. Memo.

CONFIDENTIAL

ARGENTINE VIOLATION OF UNITED KINGDOM SOVEREIGNTY  
IN ANTARCTICA

1. As the result of further acts of trespass and infringements of our sovereignty committed in the area during the Antarctic season of 1953-4, we have found it necessary to address further protests to the Argentine Government. These concern:-

- (a) The construction of further huts on British territory without the permission of Her Majesty's Government;
- (b) An increase in the number of unauthorised uniformed personnel maintained by the Argentine Government in two such huts at Hope Bay, Graham Land;
- (c) The establishment of a navigation beacon on Nelson Island in the South Shetland Islands, again without the permission of Her Majesty's Government;
- (d) The issue of a Law regulating what are described as Argentine "National Territories", in which there is an implicit suggestion that the Falkland Islands and the Falkland Island Dependencies are under the jurisdiction of the Argentine Government.

2. We have in our protests emphasised that these actions constitute infringements of our sovereignty in the area, and have repeated to the Argentine Government that the Falkland Islands and Falkland Island Dependencies are and remain under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom and that this sovereignty cannot be regarded as qualified in any way.

3. Copies of this memorandum are being passed to the Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

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COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE.

23rd November, 1954.

H.K. *act*  
H.K.  
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#### Base 'F', Argentine Islands

Periods of warm weather and several gales are reported to have produced a considerable amount of local thawing and the sea ice is now rotten in several areas with open water leads. The ice to the north and west however is still very firm to the limits of visibility.

Routine meteorological observations and Radio Sonde ascents have continued daily.

Many Weddell Seals with pups have been seen which is interesting in view of the few seen last year. Birds are gradually returning to the area.

#### Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

The weather was generally cloudy with snow, rain, or drift on most days and strong to gale force winds from the north or north-east. Temperatures were high and the snow cover is now soft and slushy. Level fast ice still remains in the Bay and extends from Point Thomas to one mile outside Point Hennequin. The ice in the Bransfield Strait has varied between one tenth and nine-tenths cover of medium pack with isolated tabular and castellated icebergs.

A party camped at Lissick Cove from the 16th to the 19th September and parties from Base have been out from Base on short ski journeys.

A few Weddell seals were seen and some 150 Crabbeater Seals between Le Poing Glacier and the entrance to the Bay. A number of Terns and Skuas have returned and penguins were first observed at Point Thomas rookery on the 14th October.

#### Base 'H', Signy Island

The sea ice is reported to be still fast around the Island except for a large pool of open water off the south coast; there is pack beyond to the horizon.

Work on Weddell pup skins is progressing and a total of 26 have now been taken. An Elephant Seal and several Gentoo Penguins were seen during September. More penguins had reached Gourlay Point rookery by mid-October and several Elephant Seal pups were seen.

#### R.R.S. "John Biscoe"

The relief vessel left Southampton on the 4th October and reached St. Vincent on the 13th. She has given her expected times of arrival at Montevideo and Stanley as the 28th October and the 3rd November respectively.

#### All Bases

Have reported that meteorological and wireless schedules have been well maintained and that personnel are all well.

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

Report for the period 22nd September to 19th October, 1954

Base 'A', Port Lockroy

North-easterly and south-westerly gales with heavy snow showers and temperatures near freezing persisted over most of the period. Four clear calm sunny days at the end of September were very welcome and enjoyed by all. The pack ice in the Neumayer and Peltier Channels was under constant movement and varied from open water to nine-tenths cover.

The inclement weather mostly limited activities to indoor work and several rooms were painted and redecorated.

The first penguins were seen on the rookery on the 14th October.

Base 'B', Deception Island

The weather was reported as mainly overcast but generally milder but with some precipitation on most days. The belt of open water round the Island has gradually widened but otherwise little change to ice conditions is reported.

Several repair and maintenance jobs were completed including overhauling the boats, outboard motors and sledging equipment.

Cape Pigeons, Terns and Skuas are gradually returning.

Base 'D', Hope Bay

The usual high winds prevailed over most of the period and the Bay was reported as ice free except when northerly winds brought in ice from Antarctic Sound.

The main sledge party (Turner, Taylor, Leppard and Standing) returned to the Base on the 6th October having travelled a total distance of 362 miles. They reported that after being held up by gales at Beak Island and at View Point they made very good progress south and finally laid a 1300 pound depot of food and fuel at Pedersen Nunatak. Geological work was carried out at Cape Longing and at Pedersen Nunatak. On the return journey the party occupied View Point Hut for a week to rest the teams. The dogs had lost weight on the journey but soon returned to normal after being fed on seal.

Mottershead, Kenney, Precious and Clarke left the Base on the 25th September to occupy View Point Hut and to hunt seals in Duse Bay. Precious and Clarke returned on the 5th October and reported having killed a number of seals and having stored them above Duse Bay tide crack and at Summit Pass. Mottershead and Kenney returned on the 9th having maintained routine meteorological observations daily, made an astronomical fix and caught a number of seals.

Two parties again set out for Duse Bay on the 18th October; Clarke, Brookfield, Kenney and Precious are to make a short survey journey and Taylor and Mottershead are to try feeding dogs on whale pemmican under field conditions. Taylor has reported that he is making some progress with his frictional work and that the equipment is proving satisfactory.

Kenney has added further detail to the local survey between sledge journeys. A number of seals were caught near the Base during September.

/Base 'F'

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

Report for the period 22nd September to 19th October, 1954

Base 'A', Port Lockroy

North-easterly and south-westerly gales with heavy snow showers and temperatures near freezing persisted over most of the period. Four clear calm sunny days at the end of September were very welcome and enjoyed by all. The pack ice in the Neumayer and Peltier Channels was under constant movement and varied from open water to nine-tenths cover.

The inclement weather mostly limited activities to indoor work and several rooms were painted and redecorated.

The first penguins were seen on the rookery on the 14th October.

Base 'B', Deception Island

The weather was reported as mainly overcast but generally milder but with some precipitation on most days. The belt of open water round the Island has gradually widened but otherwise little change to ice conditions is reported.

Several repair and maintenance jobs were completed including overhauling the boats, outboard motors and sledging equipment.

Cape Pigeons, Terns and Skuas are gradually returning.

Base 'D', Hope Bay

The usual high winds prevailed over most of the period and the Bay was reported as ice free except when northerly winds brought in ice from Antarctic Sound.

The main sledge party (Turner, Taylor, Leppard and Standring) returned to the Base on the 6th October having travelled a total distance of 362 miles. They reported that after being held up by gales at Beak Island and at View Point they made very good progress south and finally laid a 1300 pound depot of food and fuel at Pedersen Nunatak. Geological work was carried out at Cape Longing and at Pedersen Nunatak. On the return journey the party occupied View Point Hut for a week to rest the teams. The dogs had lost weight on the journey but soon returned to normal after being fed on seal.

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Kenney has added further detail to the local survey between sledge journeys. A number of seals were caught near the Base during September.

/Base 'F'

19/98/2

4 copies of sent to  
External Affairs by surface c, 1954  
mail under comp. slip

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Previous Reference P(54)33 d'd 26.11.54.

A.C.

Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

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The attached report, for the period 22nd September  
to 19th October, 1954, has been received from the  
Governor of the Falkland Islands and is circulated for  
the information of the members of the Committee

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14th

(Signed) J.A. Molyneux

for Basil Greenhill

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Secretary  
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Commonwealth Relations Office,  
Downing Street.

25 November, 1954.

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/Base 'F'

SECRET

ANNEX TO COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE  
MEMORANDUM OF 14TH DECEMBER 1954

ANTARCTICA

The Revised text of the United Kingdom Government's Note to Argentina/Chile is as follows:-

"Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have on many previous occasions drawn the attention of the Argentine/Chilean Government to the terms of the Letters Patent of 1908 and 1917 by which the Antarctic territories known as the Falkland Islands Dependencies were stated to be part of His Majesty's Dominions and were made Dependencies of the Falkland Islands Colony. Her Majesty's Government have repeatedly reminded the Argentine/Chilean Government that these Dependencies are and remain under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

"2. The Argentine/Chilean Government, for their part, have persisted in maintaining that certain parts of the Falkland Islands Dependencies are Argentine/Chilean territory, and in committing various acts which in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom constitute a trespass and a violation of United Kingdom sovereignty over these Dependencies.

"3. Her Majesty's Government believe that the most satisfactory way of settling the dispute concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands Dependencies would be for Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Argentina/Chile, together with the Government of Chile/Argentina, to refer the question to judicial settlement, and they have many times invited the Argentine/Chilean Government to submit their claims to the adjudication of the International Court of Justice. The Argentine/Chilean Government, however, have so far declined this invitation. Her Majesty's Government regret that the Argentine/Chilean Government have taken up this position and they wish to inquire whether, as an alternative to adjudication by the International Court of Justice, the Argentine/Chilean Government would be prepared, jointly with the Government of the United Kingdom to submit to an independent, ad hoc, arbitral tribunal the adjudication of their respective rights under international law in the territories designated as the Falkland Islands Dependencies by the Letters Patent of 1908 and 1917.

"4. Her Majesty's Government trust that the above proposal will meet with an early and favourable response from the Argentine/Chilean Government. If, however, this is not the case, Her Majesty's Government will consider themselves free to avail themselves of any means that may be open to them to seek a determination of their legal rights by the International Court of Justice.

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7.5.11/104

ANTARCTICA

H. R. J.  
11/12

Revised instructions have now been sent to H.M. Ambassadors in Buenos Aires and Santiago concerning the United Kingdom approach to the Argentine and Chilean Governments over the Antarctic dispute.

2. The text of the Notes has now been modified, and a copy of the revised version is annexed to this memorandum. Our intention is that the Notes should be delivered as soon as we hear that the Cyprus item been disposed of in the United Nations General Assembly.

3. It will be seen that the new text differs from the previous version as regards the order and emphasis of the points. Our Legal experts consider that if we announce our intentions to the two Governments in advance we run the risk of stimulating them to examine ways of frustrating the objects of our action; for example, if, after they had received our Notes but before we had made our Application, the two Governments were to declare that they were not prepared to agree to arbitration or to any form of judicial settlement, the Court might consider that our Application was prompted by propaganda motives and not by the desire to promote a genuine settlement of the Antarctic dispute. If the Court were to take this view they might go so far as to refuse to entertain our Application. The Note has therefore been redrafted so that it is ostensibly an offer of arbitration and the threat to make Application to the Court is not recognisable as such.

4. Our representatives have been instructed that, when they receive authority to deliver the Notes, they should explain that the United Kingdom is seeking to meet the difficulties brought about by the position which those Governments have publicly taken up in the past vis-a-vis the International Court of Justice; if an approach to the latter is still unacceptable, would the Argentine and Chilean Governments perhaps be prepared to seek a judicial settlement through some other channel, e.g., an ad hoc independent arbitral tribunal?

5. We are not, however, sanguine about the prospects of these two Governments agreeing to submit the dispute to arbitration, and the principal object of our approach is to pave the way for a unilateral Application by us to the International Court of Justice. If we receive no reply from them by about 20th January, we intend to submit our Application to the Court about 1st February. By making our approach as soon as possible before the current Antarctic season closes, we hope to forestall as far as possible the effect of the fresh encroachments in the Falkland Islands Dependencies, which are bound to take place during the coming months, and ensure that at least a fair part, perhaps even a considerable part, of the 1954-5 programme of, especially, the Argentine Task Force will be without effect from the legal point of view.

6. Copies of this memorandum are being passed to the Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

7.5.17/104

C.R.O. Tel. To U.K. H.C., Cape Town

Y. No. 110    CONFIDENTIAL

6th March 1954.

ANTARCTICA

Argentine Minister of Marine accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of Argentine Fleet and other senior Naval Officers, left Buenos Aires on 19th February, in Naval Transport LES ECLAIREURS for visit of inspection of Argentine bases in Antarctica. Statement announcing this was provocative, and was to effect that this was first visit of a Cabinet Minister to "our Antarctic Sector", where personnel had been working for many years in constant assertion of Argentine sovereignty. Visit was thus clearly designed as demonstration of Argentine claim to sovereignty.

2. H.M. Frigate ST. AUSTELL BAY was instructed to contact Argentine vessel, to escort Argentines throughout visit, displaying every courtesy but underlining at every stage British sovereignty.

3. Meanwhile United Kingdom Ambassador in Buenos Aires was instructed that when contact was made he should inform Argentine Foreign Minister and say that, although we would have liked longer notice, we would do our best to ensure that Minister was appropriately welcomed in British territories.

4. Contact was made with Argentine vessel on March 3rd, and vessel was accompanied by ST. AUSTELL BAY to Deception Island. Minister of Marine declined British offer of assistance on grounds that "he was only visiting Argentine bases". He protested against frigate's arrival without warning in Argentine waters and received suitable reply. Later, in conversation with Captain of frigate, Minister objected to being followed around and took view that honour had now been satisfied by mutual exchange of protests.

5. On March 4th United Kingdom Ambassador spoke as instructed to Argentine Acting Foreign Minister, who took note of Ambassador's communication and said that object of voyage was to raise morale of Argentine Antarctic detachments.

*Mr. Roberts  
2/13*

this was too much. It is, I believe, the fact that personnel are detailed for work in the Antarctic and are not volunteers; having seen some of them, I entertain considerable sympathy for the unhappy Madam. Nevertheless a good deal of work seems to have been done at the Base and there were also signs of increased W/T and Meteorological installations, navigational lights and landing marks etc. At 1430 I again transferred my flag to H.M.S. "Nigeria" and set off for Port Stanley arriving there at 1700 on the 9th March.

11. While I am of the opinion that the visit of H.M.S. "Nigeria" and H.M.S. "Snipe" has had excellent effect (not least in the raising of the morale of our own shore parties) I am equally of the opinion that such visits must be continued. The "Nigeria" with her projecting propellers and her great length is, perhaps, not too well suited for navigation in these difficult waters and her handling must have presented an anxious problem to her commanding officer to whom I am much indebted. A Sloop such as the "Snipe", strengthened as necessary, has in practice proved to be quite suitable for anything up to light pack and I hope that it will be possible to make a similar ship/s available for an even longer period next year.

12. In conclusion I have been most gratified to note the tribute conveyed by Their Lordships to H.M.S. "Snipe" in their signal No. 111548 March; it was well merited.

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

(Sgd.) MILES CLIFFORD.

GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.