

FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY

AIR MINISTRY OR ROYAL AIR FORCE

PART I

Registered Number

COS/209/1/SIGS.

Date
Opened

29.1.65

UNIT OR BRANCH (For R.A.F. use only)

Central Registry - R.A.F. COSFORD.

SUBJECT

For numbers and subjects of
former and subsequent papers
see inside cover

ROYAL AIR FORCE R.A.F.A.R.S
EXPEDITION

From: Squadron Leader A.W. Hannaford, AMIERE, RAF

Secretary, RAF-ARS

Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society

Tel.: Banwell 470 Ext. 335

*Royal Air Force,
Locking,
Weston-super-Mare,
Somerset.*

4/2

3

LOC/409/1/Sigs

2nd February 1965

Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hern, RAF
Royal Air Force
Cosford

Dear John.

D-XPEDITIONS - 1964/65

Reference: COS/209/1/Sigs dated 29th January 1965.

1. Thank you for your letter at reference and we are very pleased with the willingness with which you have accepted the appointment as Project Officer for RAF-ARS D-Xpeditions.
2. Concerning the activities involved we would ask you to look into the following possibilities for D-Xpeditions, the proposals for investigation are in fact your terms of reference at this stage:
 - a. Investigate the possibility of an expedition to Rockall island as an individual RAF-ARS venture in 1965.
 - b. Report on the feasibility of a D-Xpedition to Rockall next year under the terms of DCI 14/64.
 - c. Submit proposals for any other form of D-Xpedition under the terms of DCI 14/64.
3. I suggest that your proposals should first be submitted to the committee in broad terms. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

*Yours sincerely
A.W. Hannaford*

From:- Flight Lieutenant J. M. Hern, RAF

Royal Air Force
Cosford
Wolverhampton
Staffordshire

Albrighton 393 Ext. 217

COS/209/1/SIGS.

29 January 1965

Squadron Leader A. W. Hannaford, RAF
RAF Locking

EXPEDITIONS - 1964/65

Thank you very much for your letter dated 26th January offering me another committee job! Thank you and the Committee very much and I accept with pleasure.

From: Squadron Leader A.W. Hannaford, AMIERE, RAF Secretary, RAF-ARS

cc 87/209/1/5145 *Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society* 28/1

Tel.: Banwell 470 Ext. 335

*Royal Air Force,
Locking,
Weston-super-Mare,
Somerset.*

LOC/409/1/Sigs

26th January 1965

Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hern, RAF
Royal Air Force
Cosford

Dear Sir,

D-XPEDITIONS 1964/65

1. At a meeting of the RAF-ARS Committee held on the 25th January 1965 you were unanimously voted as being the most suitable person in all respects to undertake ex officio duties as Officer in Charge of RAF-ARS D-Xpeditions for 1965.
2. I am therefore writing to invite you to this appointment. If you accept, appropriate terms of reference will be sent to you.

*Yours sincerely +72
A.W. Hannaford*

From :- Flight Lieutenant J. M. Hern, RAF

Royal Air Force
Cosford
Wolverhampton
Staffordshire

Albrighton 393 Ext. 217

COS/209/1/SIGS

February 1965

SECRETARY RAFARS

RAF LOCKING

1965 RAFARS EXPEDITIONS

Reference: LOC/409/1/SIGS dated 2nd February 1965

In accordance with your above quoted letter I enclose a memo outlining my proposals for the 1965 Expedition.

I do not consider that DCI(a)14/64 is able to help us in our expedition to Rockall alone. It might if it was combined with a survey and mapping exercise. I do not feel that this is within the scope of para 2 of the DCI. I also feel strongly that any RAFARS expedition should be with a radio background. Even now we have RAFARS members who can instal and operate a radio station more quickly and effectively than most emergency units.

If possible I would like to come down to GS FC fairly soon to go over the 1965 plans with the committee.

RAFARS DXPEDITIONS

Reference A. LOC 409/1/SIGS dated 2nd February 1965

B. "ROCKALL" by James Fisher

1. The RAFARS set a precedent in 1961 and again in 1963 in the expeditions to VS9K and VS9H. Both were new DXCC countries. It is obvious that the next expedition should follow along the same lines, and should be to a new country. Failing this it should be to a very rare country, (for amateur radio purposes). A new country would be ROCKALL. There are two places that come under the 'rare' category.

ALBANIA AND HEARD ISLAND

2. I propose that ROCKALL is the choice with ALBANIA as the alternative. There are natural difficulties with ROCKALL and political difficulties with ALBANIA.

RAFARS has the experienced operators and has or can obtain the equipment for both objectives. In both the previous expeditions RAFARS was unable to contribute financial help, and the operators must be prepared to pay towards the expedition. Rockall cannot be activated by RAFARS alone because the only approach is by helicopter. This will necessitate the use of a sea going boat capable of housing the helicopter and aviation fuel. It is completely impossible to safely carry out the expedition to Rockall by boat alone. There are two obvious possible sources of boats. One and probably the easiest is the Royal Navy. The second is a private boat from the USA or Canada.

3. For financial reasons the RN boat would have to combine with other duties for the trip to Rockall. If these necessitated going beyond that area, then the expedition will be limited to one or two periods of six to ten hours only. There is no doubt at all that even one day's operation would be greatly appreciated and would be worthwhile even if it meant staying on an R.N. ship for two or three weeks to carry it out.

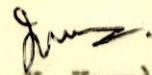
4. The problem of Albania is of a completely different nature. One car-load of operators and equipment could go from here. The appropriate cost would be £150 - 250 depending on numbers.

5. In order that both these possibilities be thoroughly explored it is requested that the President of the Society writes as follows:-

a. To the Admiralty to ask for co-operation and help in putting a helicopter carrying boat in the area of Rockall for a minimum period of one day. It would have to be during the hours of daylight or when high tide is just after dawn. It would also be preferable to be a weekend. It might be tied up with a NATO exercise or possibly another visit by the National Geographical Society. May or September appear to be the logical months.

b. To the Air Attache in Albania asking for special permission for licenced members of RAFARS to go to the Border of Albania and operate there for a period of nine days. (to cover two weekends).

6. It should be emphasised that the expedition would be for amateur radio purposes only and that permission to enter Albania further than the border is not required.


(J. M. Hern)
Flight Lieutenant
Project Officer
RAFARS DXpeditions

Sqn Ldr A.W. Hannaford A.M.I.E.R.E.
Secretary RAFARS
RAF Locking

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RAF-ARS HELD IN THE STO'S OFFICE
AT 1430 HOURS ON FRIDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY 1965

7

Present:	Group Captain S.M. Davidson	Chairman
	Squadron Leader A.W. Hannaford	Secretary
	Flight Lieutenant J. Townsend	Treasurer
	Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hern	D-Xpedition Project Officer ✓
	Mr. A.E. Seymour	Member
	Mr. J. Etherington	Member
	Sgt G.W. Ilbury	Member
	Sgt R. Handley	Member
	Sgt P. Nicholls	Member

ITEM NOACTION TAKEN

1. The minutes of the last two meetings were taken as read and agreed to be accurate.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

2. The Secretary said that the provision of the new design QSL cards was in hand.

All to note

2

D-Xpedition Proposals for 1965

3. The Chairman read a letter from Flt Lt Hern stating his proposals for D-Xpeditions in 1965, which are as follows:

- a. Rockall.
- b. Albanian border.
- c. Herd island.

4. The cost for the Albanian expedition would be of the order of £150/£200.

Rockall

5. After considerable discussion it was considered that the only satisfactory way to overcome the problems associated with Rockall was to have a joint expedition with the Royal Navy.

Decision: Flt Lt Hern to contact RAF Signals Officer at Londonderry to explore possibilities of an expedition to Rockall in conjunction with a JASS Exercise and to see if negotiation at higher level would be favourably received. Flt Lt Hern to report his findings to the Chairman.

Flt Lt HernAlbania

6. The Chairman explained that there were many political and other difficulties attached to an expedition to this country, and advised that the party should consist of non-Service members of the Society. It was decided that Flt Lt Hern should make further investigations for this expedition and report to the committee stating more precisely where in Albania he required to operate and routes to be taken, before any Embassy approach could be made.

Flt Lt Hern

CENTRAL REGISTRY
R.A.F. COSFORD

/Item No 3

11 MAR 1965

1

File No.
 Referred To eo

20

FRESH FLYING/EXISTING COVER/PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT/MODEL

FROM: RAF Amateur Radio Society

TO: MOD, DI 26 (Air)

J.A.R.I.B. USE ONLY

TASK/ORDER NO.

A147166

AIR RECONNAISSANCE REQUEST FORM
(See notes on inside front cover)

L	Originators Serial No.	cos/209/1/5165 1
M	Type of Reconnaissance	Vertical and Oblique
N	National Map Series & Sheet No.	Sorties 42/1821 and 58T/2725
O	Description of Target & M.R.	Island of 'Rockall'.
P	Object of Request/ Result desired	For planning purposes. 'Expedition Training'.
Q	Photo Scale or limits acceptable	As large as possible.
R	Nos. of Prints/Plots/ Reports Required	4 2 oblique and 2 vertical
S	Delivery Address, Date, Time	Flt Lt Hern 1 Feb 66 OC Clerical Services Flight, RAF Cosford, Staffs
T	Latest Acceptable Time & Date	1 Apr 66
U	Special Instructions	

RECEIVED
- 8 FEB 1966
J.A.R.I.B. (U.K.)
SECRETARIAT

(Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

FOR ORIGINATOR

Contact for subsequent inquiries: Name... HERN ...Tel... 2393 ...Ext... 207 ...
Signature... [Signature] ...Date... 20 Dec 65 ...Ref... - ...
(Requesting Officer)

FOR HIGHER FORMATION

Signature... [Signature] ...Date... 2nd February 1966 ...Ref.No... 77/1679/1/PA ...
(Approving Officer)

FOR J.A.R.I.B.

Signature... A. E. TEMPLE ...Priority: 3 ...
CHAIRMAN Date:- 8 FEB 1966
J.A.R.I.B. (U.K.) To on

FOR PRODUCTION CENTRE

Date Received.....
Date Into Production.....
Date due for Dispatch.....
Signature.....
Progress Officer



18

HQ TTC

Tel Huntingdon 2151 Ext 478

TT/1679/1/PF

17th January 1966

RAF Cosford

PLANNED EXPEDITION - ROCKALL

1. The attached request for ariel photographs is returned for further information.
2. Before approval of this request can be forwarded to the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Board (United Kingdom) more information on the proposed expedition is required by this headquarters (CPFO).
3. It is requested therefore that you inform CPFO of the proposed project, giving full details when the applications for photographs are resubmitted.

CENTRAL RECORDS
R.A.F. COSFORD

19 JAN 1966

File No.....

Referred To.....

*See Mr Hearn
(O/C C.S.F.).*

A.I. Bruce
(A.I. Bruce)
Squadron Leader,
for Senior Air Staff Officer

*OC/SS
What is this about?
AD*

21

DESPATCH NOTE

To FLT/LT HERN. O.C. CLERICAL SERVICES FLT. Ph. Prog. No. A/47/66.
R.A.F. COSFORD. STAFFS. Date 19 FEB 66.
Originators Ref. No. COS/208/1/SIGS. 1

PARTICULARS OF CONSIGNMENT

SORTIES

42/1821

NEGS 1 & 3.

58/2125

F2:1 0003

} ENLARGED
TO MAX.

Quality and quantity
checked:

[Signature]

for Commandant
Central Reconnaissance Establishment,
Royal Air Force,
Brampton.

TOTAL PRINTS.....
TOTAL NEGS.....

3.

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
ROYAL AIR FORCE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HELD IN
THE SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS RAF LOCKING AT 1100 HRS
ON TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 1966

26

<u>Present:</u>	Sqn Ldr A.W.	Hannaford	-	-	Chairman
	Flt Lt H.	Goodwill	-		Treasurer/Business Manager
	Flt Lt J.	Hern	-		Dx Member ✓
	Flt Lt V.J.	Ludlow	-		Member
	Sgt G.W.	Ilbury	-		VHF Member
	Sgt R.	Kelly	-		Member
	Mr. J.	Etherington	-		Tech Member
	Mr. A.E.	Seymour	-		QRV Editor

ACTION BY

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting dated 30th October 1965.
Minutes of Committee Meeting dated 26th October 1965.

It was proposed by Flt Lt Goodwill and seconded by Mr. Seymour that the above minutes be accepted as read. All agreed.

2. Dx pedition to Rockall.

The details as available to date were outlined by Flt Lt Hern. It was agreed that a paper presenting the complete details be prepared by Flt Lt Hern and submitted to the RAFARS President. It was noted that the proposed expedition date was for May/June 1966.

Flt Lt Hern

3. Dx pedition to Kalahari.

This expedition was cancelled due to the Rhodesian political situation.

4. West Australian Project.

It was noted that the above project had replaced the Kalahari trip. It was not considered that there would be great amateur interest as there was already plenty of amateur activity from this area of Australia. It was noted however, that one RAFARS member (G3 POX FS Griffiths) of HQTTC RAF Brampton had applied for inclusion in the party.

L D. Wollen
4S71W

Dickoya Estate

Dickoya

Ceylon

24 - 3 -66

Dear John:

I see from LIDXA Bulletin ~~x~~ you hope to be on Rockall in late May or June. I shall be on six months furlough from 1st ~~April~~ ^{May}, and will have mobile rig, car and Private Pilot's License available at any time! If I can help in any way, and if civilians are allowed, please let me know.

G-land QTH is:-

23 River Green
Hamble
Southampton
Hants

I can also offer my parent's boat, a six-ton sloop with diesel auxiliary. (Sleeps 5-6)

Just got a G-call, it is G3UZI.

Looking forward to hearing from you, either here, or after May 1st, at Hamble QTH. *we fly on 28th April.*

V. bent 73: Dave

Very sad indeed about Chuck - we shall miss him very much.

I. D. Wollen
4S71W
G-3021

Dickoya Estate
Dickoya
Ceylon

5th April 1966

COS/209/1/Sigs

Dear John:

Rockall Expedition

Very many thanks for your letter of the 31st March, received today. I will be very glad to come along and to help in any way possible.

Please let me know by return if my KWM-2 and PM-2 p.s. & suitcase will be required. I am not keen on bringing it, but can arrange to send it by sea if really necessary. We fly home on the 28th April, arriving that evening. I will phone you on the 29th. Sorry, no plane of my own (!), but can drive up and see you in early May. I will keep all of May free as far as possible.

Very best 73,

Alan

(If KWM-2 not required, don't bother to answer this.)

"Morseden",
Hightown Hill,
Ringwood. HANTS
13th April 1966

Dear G3NAC,

I am writing to you for information re the plans of yourself and the RAF ARS to visit Rockall in the near future and would be grateful if you would confirm that the venture is going ahead and let me know dates etc.

I am particularly interested apart from the hope of working a 'new one'. You will no doubt, have heard of Lloyd and Iris Colvin (W6KG and KYL) who recently toured the Pacific on their DX-pedition which was sponsored by the Yasmie Foundation of which I am one of the directors. At present, Lloyd is in the USA and will shortly attend the ARRL Convention at which he will give talks and show films of his Pacific tour, after the Convention he will be flying over to the UK with Iris and while over here, they intend to operate from GD and the two GCs and licenses have already been obtained for same.

Lloyd has now asked me to try and fix him up with a visit to Rockall, either with a Dx-pedition that is forming up to go or for him to go as a separate Dx-pedition. Is there any possibility of Lloyd being able to join your RAF ARS dxpedition to Rockall. I would be very grateful if you would consider this and let me know. If it is impossible to include Lloyd, any information on Rockall and the snags etc in getting there would be very welcome and useful should we decide to set up a separate venture.

The complete station equipment used by Lloyd in his Pacific tour is now enroute to the UK and the ETA is 27/28th April at Liverpool, Lloyd and Iris are due in the UK at the end of April

73

Yours sincerely

Jack Linsay-Coates
G2DC

22

Royal Air Force
Cosford
Wolverhampton
Staffs

Albrighton 2393 Ext 217

COS/209/1/sigs

19 April 1966

Lt Col J.M. Drudge-Coates,
'Morseden',
Hightown Hill,
Ringwood,
Hants.

See Code

RAFARS EXPEDITION TO ROCKALL

Many thanks for your letter dated 13th April 1966 in which you ask if Lloyd and Iris can come with us. Unfortunately we will be travelling in HM ships and it is very difficult to obtain permission. I can obtain it for Lloyd but NOT for Iris.

There are a lot of snags however and I can assure you it is a very dangerous proposition. Only two men and equipment can get on the top at once. It is 70' above sea level and the waters are treacherous. Unless you have about £2,000 to spare to hire a helicopter carrying ship for about three days the operation is only envisaged to last about ten hours. Actually, we still have only a 30% chance of getting on even then!

I plan to operate on 20 with QSY to 40 every hour for one minute only - to look for Europe. If no take-off back to 20. All details will be published as soon as I have confirmation of my transport arrangements.

A lot of people have tried to put ROCKALL on and have failed. I intend to get there with the equipment and the right men (4 gso's per minute) and the only thing to cause us to fail should be the weather (I hope).

I regret I can give you no details as to the mechanics of our intended operation unless Lloyd comes with us, or I fail to carry the plan through. I am sure you appreciate that this trip is planned as another Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Expedition to a new country.

*Sincerely
J.M.*

(J.M. HERN)
Flight Lieutenant
RAFARS Expedition Officer.

From: Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hern, RAF

23

Royal Air Force
Cosford
Wolverhampton
Staffs

Albrighton 2393 Ext 217

COS/209/1/Sigs

31st March 1966

Squadron Leader Armstrong
JASS
Londonderry

RAFARS PROPOSED EXPEDITION TO ROCKALL

You will remember that I spoke early last year to you about the plan to put a radio station on ROCKALL.. At that time it appeared that the only way would be by helicopter. You told me that there was no chance of obtaining naval transport in 1965 that could carry a helicopter.

Since last year a lot of investigation has taken place and I now know that it will be possible to land by sea. The Commandant, RAF LOCKING, has asked me to submit plans for the proposed trip, to take place late May or June 1966. Before I do this I must be in a position to know if there is a possibility of getting sea transport to the area about that time (or later in the year).

I will be very grateful if you could be of assistance to us again this year. Will you please let me know if there will be a suitable opportunity (subject to weather) of putting a party on ROCKALL for a maximum period of 8 hours sometime this year. I have volunteers with equipment already promised and they include an experienced rock climber and two deep sea sailors.

Telcom Syldr Armstrong

not this year he thinks.

2 June 66

(J.M. HERN)
Flight Lieutenant

on leave until 24

(24)

Royal Air Force
Cosford
Wolverhampton
Staffs

Albrighton 2393 Ext 217

COS/209/1/Sigs

31 March 1966

Mr I.D. Wollen 4S71W
Dickoya Estate
Dickoya
Ceylon

ROCKALL EXPEDITION

(22)

Many thanks for your letter dated 24th March 1966 in which you offer to help in our little trip to Rockall.

I will certainly take you up on it and subject to you being available, it will be possible to take you along. I suggest as soon as you arrive in the UK you telephone me. Then you can arrange to fly up here in your plane (?) and we can have an eye ball gso.

Your boat will have too deep a draft to go near Rockall but thank you for the offer. As a sailor based at Chichester harbour I know the pitfalls.

I hope you have a nice trip home and I look forward to seeing you.

(J.M. HERN)
Flight Lieutenant

June 1966

Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty

RAFARS EXPEDITION TO ROCKALL

1. Flight Lieutenant Hern, the expedition officer of the RAFARS telephoned the Naval assistant to the Hydrographic Department on 9th June 1966. He explained briefly the plans of RAFARS to put an amateur radio station on ROCKALL for a period of 6-10 hours.
2. I understand that HMS HECLA, a survey ship under your control, is due to leave Londonderry on the 27th July en route to STORNOWAY. I would be grateful if HMS HECLA could assist us by providing transport to ROCKALL during this period. It is proposed to put 2 RAFARS members with about 100 lbs of equipment on the Rock.
3. This expedition has been planned for about 2 years, and has fallen down over the difficulty of transport. World wide interest has been shown in our efforts to establish the radio station there, and any help that you are able to give us will be very much appreciated.

Copy to:

The Captain
HMS HECLA
GPO London

A.J.

YASME

Foundation

36

R.O.X.R.O.X. 2XXXXX35XXXXXX1XX,XX1XX06XX1XX134XX

Lloyd Colvin
% Hubert De Brisis
B.P. 347

Dakar, Senegal
West Africa

29 Mar 1967

Dear John,

Just finished our QSO on 14MC SSB.

Was very surprised you did not get our letter of last year. I wrote to the same address as this letter is addressed to.

Iris and I are still very interested in a DX-pedition to Rockall . For various reasons it would seem best that our trip to Rockall not be made by government ship or helicopter.

I would like to suggest that if you can line up a fishing boat , etc. for Rockall that we will pay all expenses, furnish all equipment and you to go along with us and join us equally in operating, publicity, etc. etc. The only equipment we will need that we do not have is a generator. We have the complete Collins S-line, and a very handy 30 foot telescopic mast that will stand the strongest winds Rockall can generate. From what you have told us I would think the fishing ship might drop us off at Rockall and pick us up again in a week or so. We could live in a tent and Iris can be the cook . We lived for over 2 months on Ebon Atoll with the natives where there was no electricity (except our little generator) , no stores, roads, etc.

I realize it will not be as simple as I have stated above. If however you should find a way where this rough plan might be successfully followed please let us know.

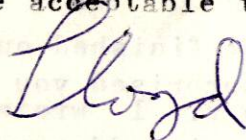
Please address all letters to the address at the top of this page. This letter is being written in Maruitania but while we are in Africa we are receiving all our mail at the

address listed at the beginning of this letter.

Both Iris and I now have permanent British licenses, G5ACH and G5ACI.

Hoping something will develop where my suggestion can be acceptable to you, I remain,

73,



Lloyd Colvin
5T5KG, etc. etc.

YASME Foundation

P.O. Box 2023 XXX Castro Valley, California 94546

38
Lloyd Colvin
% Hubert De Brisis
PO Box 347
Dakar, Senegal
West Africa
27 April 1967

Dear John,

Thanks for your letter of 6 April.

A trip to Rockall sounds very difficult.

We are devoting all our time, and considerable money to DX operation. The possibility of operating from a new country is extremely inviting. On the other hand we do not want to attempt something that may be nearly a physical impossibility.

Perhaps it is best that we give up our desire to operate from Rackall.

We wish you the best of luck on your Rackall DX-pedition. Wherever we are if we hear you are there we will be in the pile-up calling - hi.

This letter is actually written from Mali. We have been here two weeks trying to get permission to operate. As far as we can determine this is the only government in the world that has never given official permission for an amateur station to operate. We are trying our best to get permission to operate for as little as 24 hours - but it doesn't look very encouraging at this time. Perhaps people like you, and ourselves, are a little foolish to try so hard to give others a "new one".

73 es 88

Liv + Lloyd

"Morseden"
Hightown Hill,
Ringwood. HANTS.

24th April 1966

F/lt J.M.Hern
RAFARS Expedition Officer
Royal Air Force
Cosford.

Dear CIBAC

RAFARS EXPEDITION to ROCKALL

23

Many thanks for your letter COS/209/1/sigs of 19th Apl 66. I have not been in touch with Lloyd since receiving your letter as he has been on the move, I know that he was attending the ARRL convention in Boston over the weekend and that shortly after same he would be flying over to the UK. so I am expecting him to arrive this week.

I quite understand the position re the planning of the Rockall expedition, as you say, the snags must be pretty formidable and the risks considerable.

I am sure that Lloyd would like to accompany you, as you know, he is a first class operator and accustomed to making hazardous landings on remote islands on dpeditions although I know that Rockall will be the toughest nut of all, I am sure that if Lloyd does go with you, he will be an asset.

As soon as I make contact with Lloyd again I will confirm that how will accompany you if permissable.

Wishing you all success in the venture.

75
Jack
(J.M. Drudge-Coates)

G2DC

Morseden
Hightown Hill
Ringwood -3962
Hants
7 May 1966

30

J.M. Hern
Flight Lieutenant
RAFARS Expedition Officer

Dear John,

While in the USA we visited W4ECI. He told us of a letter he had from you and gave us your name and address and suggested we contact you about a possible DXpedition to Rockall. When we got to England and visited G2DC we were most pleased to find that he had written you and had received your letter in return of 19 April.

This letter is actually being written from the Isle of Man where we are now on the air as G5ACH/W6KG (Lloyd) and G5ACI/WB6QEP (Iris).

We have time money and equipment available for the Rockall trip and would like to operate there. As you describe the situation in your letter it does not seem like we would exactly "fit in". We desire to go as a team and are not anxious to split up - also it sure sounds rough - hi. Our equipment is the Collins S line and we have it in a special 100 lb container. The equipment should be fine for the Rockall trip - we also have a 14AVS all-band vertical which could be used.

All factors considered it seems best for us to just stand by on the Rockall expedition. If you get some additional ideas we would be most happy to hear from you. All mail should go to the address at the top of the page (G2DCs QTH).

We wish you the best possible luck on your expedition. The whole world will be happy if you make it - hi.

Many thanks for the letter to G2DC and we will be watching for you on the bands,

73 ,

Iris and Lloyd Colvin

Iris + Lloyd

From : Squadron Leader P.J. Armstrong RAF

Joint Anti-Submarine School,
Londonderry.
Northern Ireland.

Londonderry 3211, Ext : 55

3rd June, 1966.

JASS/501/5/P5

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT J.M. HERN,
HEADQUARTERS, MAINTENANCE COMMAND,
ROYAL AIR FORCE,
ANDOVER.
WILTSHIRE.

Dear Flight Lieutenant Hern,

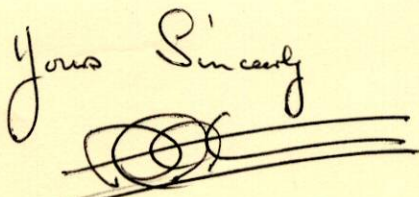
RAFARS PROPOSED EXPEDITION TO ROCKALL

(27)
I must apologise for the excessive delay in answering your letter of 31st March, which I regret was caused by an administrative fault at this unit.

As I explained during our recent telephone conversation, the Royal Naval Director here does not have any ships under his permanent control and both ships and aircraft are allocated to this unit to carry out a specific course of training. After consultation with my Royal Navy colleague, it appears that there is no hope of being able to carry out your requirements by using one of the Royal Navy escorts allocated to JASS for training. The R.N. view is that to detach a ship to transit to ROCKALL, remain in the vicinity for about 10 hours, and then transit back to the exercise areas would result in a loss of too much valuable training time; particularly in view of the unpredictable weather conditions in that part of the North Western Approaches which might well render the attempt fruitless.

The allocation of tasks to the Royal Navy ships in Home waters is done by the staff of Commander in Chief, Home Fleet situated at Northwood, Middlesex. Since this staff is responsible for R.N. ships movements in general it is possible that an approach to them might pay dividends although in the present climate of defence cuts I feel this is unlikely.

I regret that this unit cannot be of assistance to you but I would only be raising false hopes by even suggesting that there is a chance of obtaining sea transport from us.

Yours Sincerely

(P.J. ARMSTRONG)
Squadron Leader

P.S. As a long shot HMS HECHA, an R.N. Survey ship is currently working around the Hebrides and is equipped with a helo. This ship works for the Hydrographers department not Home Fleet & I do not know her programme of work.

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MC/

9th June 1966

Sqn Ldr A. W. Hannaford
RAF Locking
Weston Super Mare

Amiens RAF

PLANNED EXPEDITION TO ROCKALL

1. I enclose a draft copy of my proposed letter to the Admiralty. If you agree will you please ask the president of RAFARS to sign it and send a copy to HECLA.
2. The ship is due in Londonderry for the 22nd - 27th July and Fg Off Handley will be available to go. The second operator will have to be a civilian member of RAFARS, but I will confirm later.
3. I cannot go as I will be abroad during the relevant dates, but I have made all arrangements for equipment etc. The only cost to RAFARS will be the equipment insurance which I will arrange as usual.

FROM: Flt Lt J. M. Hern, RAF

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MC/

10^x June 1966

Sgt Bob Lane, USAF
PO 777
RAF Mildenhall

PROPOSED RAFARS EXPEDITION TO ROCKALL

1. As you know I have been planning an official RAF expedition to Rockall for a considerable time. The plans are now nearing completion, and I hope that we will be able to depart from Londonderry in a Royal Naval Ship on the 27th July 1966.
2. The RAF officer going is Fg Off R. Handley, RAF, and I would be very pleased if you could find time to go with him. It is hoped to offload you at Rockall by helicopter, and to disembark you at Stornoway on completion.
3. Will you please let me know as soon as possible, if you will be available for this radio expedition.

Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society
Expedition Officer.

Dear Colonel ^{H.G.} FULLMER

The Wing Commander
513th A.R. Base TAW
RAF MILDENHAM

EB

G3UZI

Jan D. Wollen

4S7IW

34

23, RIVER GREEN,
HAMBLE, SOUTHAMPTON
Hamble ~~2395~~ 2149
18.6.66

Dear John:

I'm afraid I have bad news,
as I too cannot make the Rockall trip
on the dates specified, owing to the fact
that I have to be in Sussex that week;
quite unable to break this engagement.

I hope you can still let the
expedition go forward. I'm seeing Bob
Lane on Wednesday next, as I'm in Cambridge
for a fortnight.

Shall be at the Longleat Mobile
Rally and look forward to seeing you there.

Vy 73.

Jan