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A copy of the Survey of H.M.S. Mermaid's principal defects & leak at Canning Bay,
on N.W. Coast Australia.

Copy-

By Lieutt P. Phillips. R.N. Commanding
H.M.S. Cutter Mermaid. in Canning Bay
N.W. Coast of Australia.

A considerable leak, which has lately much increased, having induced me
to career H. Mys. Cutter under my command, in order to stop it if possible;

You are hereby directed to take to your assistance the carpenter of the cutter
& examining into its cause report to me upon the following heads

1. The nature and extent of the damage done, & of any defect that may be
discovered -

2. After making such repairs as our confined means will allow, will it be
prudent for her to complete the voyage before our return to Port Jackson

Given under my hand, at our Encampment in
Canning Bay. this 23^d day of September 1820.

(Signed) Phillip P. King - R.N. -

To Messrs. Frederick Bedwell,

Mr. S. Roe,

Martis Mates of His Majesty's Cutter Mermaid. -

After the necessary repairs had been completed & the cutter ready to quit Canning Bay.
the following Report was given in answer to the above -

(Copy)

Pursuant to an order on the other side, we whose names are hereunto subscribed,
with the assistance of the carpenter of His Majesty's Cutter Mermaid, have made a careful
examination into the principal defects of the said cutter. Unto the nature of
the leak that occasioned her being laid ashore upon the sands of Canning Bay:

On stripping a few sheets of copper off the lower part of the stem-post,
and after part of the keel, the latter ^{was} found ~~was~~ rent through horizontally, to
about 3 feet from the stem post, in a part which appeared to have been
defective when the vessel was built, a bolt having been driven in to
reinforce it shutting further:

The stem post appeared loosened at its connection with the keel, by
violent beating on the ground, and the bolts used in fastening a small iron plate
for their greater security were found so rusty and worn as to be extracted
by the carpenter with little other assistance than his fingers:

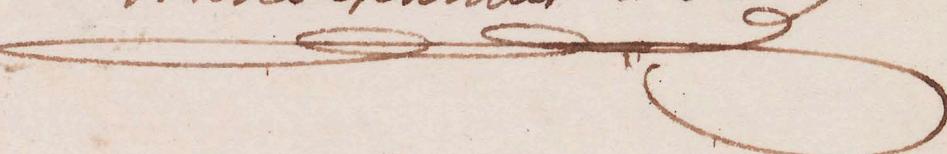
The whole of the fastenings, which are iron fore and aft, appear in a forward
state of decay, and in many places have eaten holes through the copper; which
we are of opinion will make it necessary for the vessel to be newly fastened,
with

with copper bolts & shikes if possible, on her arrival at Port Jackson, before she will be in a fit state for sailing on another voyage; as we consider the latter defect and the looseness of the stem post to be the principal causes of the leak that exists.

The seams in the heads on both sides, and the butt ends under each counter, we found very open; but in every other respect ~~we find~~ the timber appears strong and in good condition.—

The measures which have been adopted for repairing the above mentioned defects during our continuance in Barren Bay, we consider, as far as our judgment extends, to be as effectual as our limited means would admit, & to have rendered the vessel sufficiently secure to enable us to complete the present voyage without being under the necessity of returning to Port sooner than was originally intended: we are however fully aware that a trial at sea can alone determine this point, & do not apprehend an unfavorable result.—

We cannot close our report without recommending to your favorable consideration William Lourte the Carpenter, for his zeal & ability in the discharge of his duty, & Thomas Stevenson Shipmaker, & for the able assistance he has afforded as a shipwright: And we do declare that we have ~~well~~ made this examination with such care and equity that we are ready, if required, to make oath to the impartiality of our proceedings.
In witness whereof we hereunto set our hands this 8th day of October 1820
in Barren Bay.—

Signed - { Frederick Bedwell,
John September Ross -


To
Lieut H. P. King, R.N.
Commanding H. M. S. Cutty Mermaid.—

Report of Survey on bark
in H. M. S. Cutty Mermaid
October 1820