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A copy of the Survey of the principal defects & leak at Carver's Bay,
on N.W. Coast Australia.

Copy.

By Lieut P. P. King. R.N. Commanding
His Majesty's cutter Mermaid in Carver's Bay
N.W. Coast of Australia.

A considerable leak, which has lately much increased, having induced me
to order His Majesty's 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
& examine 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
Carver's Bay, this 23^d day of September 1820.

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

To Messrs Friedrich Bedwell }
- - - - - Mr S. Roe }
Masters Mate of His Majesty's cutter Mermaid.

Masters Mate of His Majesty's cutter Mermaid.

After the necessary repairs had been completed & the cutter ready to quit Carver's 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 & into the nature of
the leak that occasioned her being laid ashore upon the sands of Carver's Bay:

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

The Stern 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 rusted 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 & shives 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, &c. 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 ~~the~~ the cutter appears strong and in good condition.

The measures which have been adopted for repairing the above mentioned defects during our continuance in Carving 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 Forster the Carpenter, for his zeal & ability in the discharge of his duty, & Thomas Stephenson Sailmaker, &c. for the able assistance he has afforded as a Shipwright: And we do declare that we have ~~all~~ 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 Carving Bay -

Signed - { Frederick Bedwell
John September Roze -

To
Lieut. G. P. King, R.N.
Commanding H. M. Cutter Mermaid.

Report of Survey on Leak
in H. M. Cutter Mermaid.

October 1820.