

on 21 July 1847 as that ship began her third voyage to Desolation.

When Rogers in the *Charles Carroll* arrived at Desolation on 7 November 1847 the sea elephant industry there was already well developed with three 'mother' ships and four tenders operating systematically from various points about the coast. Shortly after their arrival, a fifth tender, *Diana*, was found ashore where it had been stranded some years before by an English sealing expedition. Rogers soon repaired her as his own command, and remained aboard her, apart for short periods at the ship, until at least April 1848. Rogers also repaired an English shallop found ashore.

Their first elephanting season commenced in December 1847. The ships, the tenders and occasionally the ship's boats were stationed at various points about the island while gangs of men were sent ashore, often for many weeks at a time, with only barrels and their beached and upturned boats for shelter. Skins and blubber were collected into depots (and buried for storage when necessary) which the tenders visited from time to time to deliver them aboard the ships where the blubber was minced and boiled down. It seems also likely that blubber was minced and boiled ashore at Pot Harbour (Accessable Bay) which seems to have been the sealers' main focal point on the island.

Because Rogers moved about the coast delivering, servicing and collecting shore gangs, his journal reflects much more than had he been merely an AB working ashore on one or two stretches of the bleak coast. He seems to have kept a meticulous record of the skins and blubber taken at each locality, but without a record of the quantities taken by the other tenders, his figures are insufficient for comparisons of the 'productivity' of the various areas involved. His record, of course, does reveal a prodigious slaughter of sea elephants; bulls, cows and pups together.

Rogers spent from 6 December 1847 to 19 January 1848, Kerguelen's brief summer, on the exposed western (windward) coast taking mainly adult bulls. On 29 January, the ships assembled in Pot Harbour before abandoning 'elephanting' for off-season whaling for right whales until early March. The *Diana* under Rogers cruised with the other tenders off the south east coast where at least nine right whales and several calves were taken, five and one calf by the *Diana* between 8 and 13 February. Thereafter the weather was too bad to permit further off-shore pelagic whaling, even by the ships.

On 6 March 1848 one of the tenders, the *Atlas*, 'started to the windward for elephant', probably to look for off-season strays, but Rogers spent from March to September 'bay whaling' for humpbacks in the sheltered bays along the indented south and south eastern coasts. The weather in June was very bad – one seaman was washed overboard and drowned – and the first whale was not taken until July. At least thirteen