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CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO PORT STANLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

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MISC 016 OF 14 JANUARY 1983.

FOR MILITARY COMMISSIONER.
FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

1. WE SHALL BE SENDING TO YOU BY THE FASTEST AVAILABLE MEANS LETTERS WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SIGNED, ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOGRAPHS, TO A NUMBER OF THOSE SERVING UNDER YOUR COMMAND. MEANWHILE, PARAGRAPH 4 BELOW CONTAINS THE TEXT OF A LETTER TO YOU WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SIGNED THIS MORNING. SHOULD YOU WISH TO BRING ANY PART OF THIS LETTER TO THE ATTENTION OF HER MAJESTY'S FORCES IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BEFORE THE SIGNED VERSION ARRIVES PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO.

2. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, THE PRIME MINISTER IS ALSO WRITING TO MRS. THORNE.

3. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DID FOR US.

4. TEXT OF LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS:

I WRITE TO THANK YOU MOST WARMLY FOR ALL YOU DID TO MAKE MY VISIT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SO MEMORABLE AND SO REWARDING. THOSE FOUR DAYS WERE ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE.

I AM DEEPLY INDEBTED TO YOU PERSONALLY FOR YOUR INVALUABLE BRIEFINGS, YOUR CAREFUL ATTENTION TO MY PROGRAMME, YOUR COMPANY AND YOUR HOSPITALITY. THE DINNER WHICH YOU SO KINDLY GAVE FOR ME ON TUESDAY NIGHT WAS A MOST SPLENDID FINALE TO MY VISIT AND I SHALL ALWAYS TREASURE THE GIFT WHICH YOU PRESENTED TO ME ON THAT OCCASION.

I SHALL BE WRITING TO A NUMBER OF THOSE IN ALL THE SERVICES WHOSE UNITS I KNOW TO HAVE PLAYED A SPECIAL ROLE IN ORGANISING MY VISIT. BUT I SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONVEY TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES, THE ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY AND THE MERCHANT MARINE SERVING IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS MY GRATITUDE FOR THE FINE WORK THEY ARE DOING AND MY ADMIRATION FOR THEIR MATCHLESS SKILL AND PROFESSIONALISM. THE CAUSE IS GREAT. THE MEN AND WOMEN UNDER YOUR COMMAND ARE EQUAL TO THE CAUSE.

MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL+.

?BT

NNNN



me RM

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

My dear General,

I write to thank you most warmly for all you did to make my visit to the Falkland Islands so memorable and so rewarding. Those four days were one of the most wonderful experiences of my life.

I am deeply indebted to you personally for your invaluable briefings, your careful attention to my programme, your company and your hospitality. The dinner which you so kindly gave for me on Tuesday night was a most splendid finale to my visit and I shall always treasure the gift which you presented to me on that occasion.

I shall be writing to a number of those in all the services whose units I know to have played a special role in organising my visit. But I should be most grateful if you would convey to all members of the Armed Services, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Merchant Marine serving in the Falkland Islands my gratitude for the fine work they are doing and my admiration for their matchless skill and professionalism. The cause is great. The men and women under your command are equal to the cause.

Many thanks to you all.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Major General D.C. Thorne, C.B.E.,

Margaret Thatcher

B

Letter to Major-General D. C. Thorne CBE,
Military Commissioner, Falkland Islands

1+2

from the Prime Minister.

I write to thank you most warmly for all you did to make my visit to the Falkland Islands so memorable and so rewarding. ~~I have made many visits outside the United Kingdom but none has been more enjoyable or~~ These few days were one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. ~~and~~ I am deeply indebted to you personally for your invaluable briefings, your careful attention to my proposals, your company and your hospitality. The dinner ~~at our meeting~~ ~~at which I had the pleasure of meeting several of you~~ ~~and~~ which you so kindly gave for me on Tuesday night was a most splendid finale to my visit and I shall always treasure ~~the present~~ ~~the~~ gift which you presented to me on that occasion. I shall be writing to ~~many~~ a number of

~~officers~~ those in all three services ~~who I know~~ whose units I know to have played a ^{special role} ~~particular part~~ in organizing my visit. ~~but my gratitude~~ I should be most grateful if you would convey to all members of the Armed Services, ^{the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries} and the Merchant Marine serving in the Falkland Islands my gratitude for the ^{matchless} fine work they are doing ^{and} my admiration for their skill and ^{and women under your command} ~~are equal~~ ~~to the cause.~~ The cause is great. ~~The men~~ ~~are equal~~ ~~to the cause.~~

My thanks to you all.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Mrs. Thorne,

I thought you would like to know that during the visit I have just paid to the Falkland Islands I found your husband in the best of health and spirits. He is doing a marvellous job as are all those under his command. It is such an inspiration to see so much skill, courage and energy devoted to so fine a cause.

I hope that the period between now and the time when your family are re-united again will pass quickly for you. I am sending with this letter a photograph which I thought that you and your children might care to have as a memento of your husband's service in the Falkland Islands.

Every good wish,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mrs. David Thorne

B

Letter to the wife of Rajj - General
Thorne (pl. obtain details from R.D.).

I thought you would like to know
that during ^{the} my visit, ^{I have just paid} to the Falkland Islands
I found your husband in the best of health
and spirits. He is doing a marvellous job as are all
those under his command. It is such an inspiration
to see so much skill, courage and energy devoted to
so fine a cause.

I hope that ^{the} period between now and ~~when you~~ the
time when your family are reunited again will pass quickly
to you. I am sending with this letter a photograph which
I thought that you and your children might care to have as
a ~~in the future~~ as a memento of your husband's ^{service} time in
the Falkland Islands.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Colonel Symes,

My warm thanks to you and your staff for your contribution to my visit to the Falklands. The programme and arrangements were flawless - a tribute to all the care and skill with which they were prepared and carried out. Thank you so much.

*Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher*

Colonel P.W. Symes

5

Letter to Colonel P. W. Symes
Deputy Chief of Staff.

My warm thanks to you and your staff
for your contribution to my visit to the
Fullands. The programme ~~was~~ and
arrangements were flawless - a tribute
to all the care and skill with which they were
prepared and carried out. Thank you so much.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Colonel Woolnough.

Thank you very much indeed for all the energy and skill which you and your staff put into planning and managing my visit to the Falkland Islands. The programme was skilfully designed and was executed with superb professionalism and efficiency. I am most grateful.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Colonel H.A. Woolnough, O.B.E.

Letter to Colonel H. A. Woodhouse OBE,
Chief of Staff

from the Home Director.

Thank you very much indeed for all the energy and skill
which you and your staff put into planning and managing my
visit to the Falkland Islands. ~~It is always a pleasure to~~

~~see~~ ~~visit the armed forces~~ ~~but this was an experience a particular~~
~~moving and~~ The programme was skilfully designed and was
executed with ^{great support} ~~the~~ ~~all~~ ~~the~~ ~~professionalism~~ and efficiency. ~~with~~

I am most grateful.

MEMORANDUM


FROM: COS
HQ BFFI

TO: AIDC

DATE: 11/1

Subject Signed Photographs

1. A duplicate list of recommendations for signed photographs is attached.
2. Cdt also wrote on the original list that he would be grateful for one for his family if this is possible.


H. A. WOOLNOUGH
Colonel

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SIGNED PHOTOGRAPHS

Colonel H.A. WOOLNOUGH OBE Chief of Staff.

Group Captain R.A.F. WILSON AFC RAF Senior Royal Air Force officer
phantom events on mind.

Captain D.S. DOBSON RN Senior Naval Officer

Colonel P.W. SYMES Deputy Chief of Staff.

Colonel A.E.N. BLACK OBE Commander Royal Engineers.

Captain B.G. YOUNG DSO RN. CO HMS ANTRIM

Commander N. WESTBERG RN. CO HMS CHARYBDIS

Captain B.H. RUTTERFORD RFA Master RFA FORT GRANGE

Lieutenant Colonel P.R. IEVERS CO 37 Regiment Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant Colonel D.H. NEVILLE CO 1st Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment
initials date.

Flight Lieutenant J. Prince RAF OC Search & Rescue Detachment 202 Squadron.

Warrant Officer J.A. MARTIN Station Warrant Officer RAF STANLEY.

RECOMMENDED RECIPIENTS OF SIGNED PHOTOGRAPHS

- Captain D.S. DOBSON RN. ^{Jones} Senior Naval Officer Falkland Islands.
 Group Captain RAF WILSON AFC RAF ^{K.A. M.T.} Senior Royal Air Force Officer Falkland Islands.
 Colonel H.A. WOOLNOUGH OBE Chief of Staff
 Colonel P.W. SYMES Deputy Chief of Staff.
 Colonel A.E.N. Black OBE Commander Royal Engineers
 Captain B.G. Young DSO RN CO HMS ANTRIM
 Captain B.H. RUTTERFORD RFA Master, RFA FORT GEORGE.
 Commander N. WESTBERG RN CO HMS CHARYBDIS
 Lieutenant Colonel P.R. IEVERS CO 37 Engineer Regiment.
 Lieutenant Colonel D.H. NEVILLE CO 1st Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment.
 Flight Lieutenant J. PRINCE OC Search & Rescue Detachment, 202 Sqn RAF
 Warrant Officer J.A. MARTIN

Private Secretary. List as requested. If the Prime Minister were to sign one for my family, this would be particularly helpful to me
 D.C.T.

3. The letter refers to the requesting agency, according to the following list:

- A HQ
- B ROYAL NAVY
- C ROYAL ENGINEERS
- D RAF STANLEY
- E RESIDENT INFANTRY BATTALION
- F RESIDENT FIELD BATTERY
- G RESIDENT AD BATTERY
- H RESIDENT RAPIER SQUADRON

4. The final group of figures is the date followed by the serial number of the request on that date.

220-B-3

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Colonel Black,

It was a pleasure, during my visit to the Falkland Islands, to meet so many officers and men from the Royal Engineers and to see at first hand the most excellent work you are doing. The tasks in which you are engaged are so vital - the provision of accommodation for our troops, construction at the airfield and elsewhere throughout the Islands, mine-field identification and clearance, to name but a few. I should be grateful if you would pass on to those under your command my congratulations and thanks.

Every good wish,

Yours sincerely

Maynard Thatcher

Colonel A.E.N. Black, O.B.E.

5

Letter to Colonel A.E.N. Blael OBE,
Commander, Royal Engineers
Fullbad Islands.

It was a pleasure, during my visit to the
Fullbad Islands, to meet so many officers and
men from the Royal Engineers and to see at
first hand the most excellent work you are
doing. ~~We are all playing a most vital role
the major tasks of construction, rehabilitation and
so many of the tasks in which you are engaged~~
are so vital - the provision of accommodation for our
troops, construction at the airfield and elsewhere throughout
the islands, minefield identification and clearance, to name
but a few. I should be grateful if you would pass on to
those under your command my congratulations and thanks.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Colonel Neville,

I much enjoyed meeting officers and men of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Hampshire Regiment during my visit to Goose Green, Port San Carlos and Fox Bay East on 10 January. Throughout my visit to the Falkland Islands I found the professionalism and spirit of our Armed Forces most inspiring. The Hampshires demonstrate these qualities splendidly.

My best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Lieutenant Colonel D. H. Neville.

13

Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Neville,
Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, Royal Hampshire
Regiment.

I had several meetings with officers and men of the
1st Battalion of the Royal Hampshire Regiment during
my visit to Goose Green, Port San Carlos and Fox
Bay East on 10 January. Throughout my visit to
the Falkland Islands I found the probusiness and
spirit of our armed forces most inspiring. The Hampshire
demonstrate these qualities splendidly.
My best wishes to you all



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Colonel Ivers,

I wanted to let you know how deeply impressed I was, when I visited you on 9 January, by the work which you, your officers and men are doing. These vital construction tasks are absolutely central to our ability to achieve our objective in the South Atlantic and I have the greatest admiration for the way they are being performed, often in the most adverse conditions. Thank you very much indeed.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Lieutenant Colonel P. R. Ivers, R.E. —

15

Letter to Lt Col P. R. Severs

Command Office, 37 Engineer Regiment

from some minutes.

I wanted to let you how how ^{you} deeply ~~appreciated~~ I was,
~~by the work~~ when I visited ~~that~~ ~~study~~ on a former,
by the work which you, your officers and men are doing.
These vital constructive tasks are absolutely central to our ability
to ~~carry out~~ achieve our objectives in the South Atlantic and
I have the greatest admiration for the way they are being
performed, often in the most adverse conditions. That you
very much indeed.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Commander Westberg,

It was a great pleasure for me to visit HMS CHARYBDIS on 11 January. Thank you for receiving me so warmly.

It was good to see the skill and dedication with which you and those under your command are carrying out your vital role in the defence of the peace and freedom of the Falkland Islands. My best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Commander N. Westberg, R.N.

13

Commander N. Westberg RN

HMS Charybdis.

It was a great pleasure to me to visit HMS Charybdis
on 11 January. Thank you for receiving me so warmly.

~~As we planned~~
It was good to see the skill and dedication with
which you and those under your command are carrying out your
vital role in the defence of the peace and freedom of the
Falkland Islands. My best wishes to you all.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Captain Rutterford.

It was a great pleasure to visit Fort Grange on 11 January and to meet you and so many of those under your command. You are all playing a most vital role in defence of the peace and freedom of the Falkland Islands and the skill and energy with which you carry out that role is greatly admired.

Thank you for receiving me so warmly. I wish you all, when the time comes, a safe journey home.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Captain B.H. Rutterford

5

Letter to Captain B. H. Rutterford,
RFA Master, RFA Fort Grange

It was a great pleasure to visit Fort Grange
on 11 January and to meet ~~so many of you and~~
so many of those under your command. You are
all playing a most vital role in ~~the~~ defence of
the peace and freedom of the Falkland Islands
~~and to that you have the gratitude of the Islanders~~
and the skill and energy with which you carry out
that role is greatly admired.

~~That~~ that you ~~would have liked to~~
receive me so warmly. I will you all, when
the time comes, a safe journey home.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Captain Turnbull,

It was a great pleasure, during my visit to MV Stena Inspector, on 11 January to meet you, Captain Mason and so many of those under your commands. I was deeply impressed by the work you are all doing in support of our ships and send my warm thanks and best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Captain John Turnbull.

5

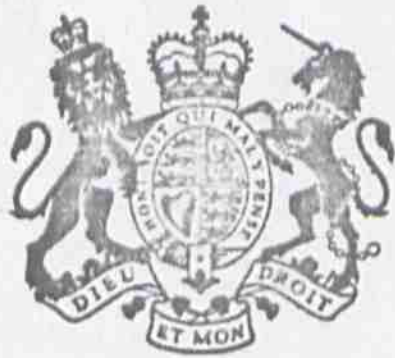
Captain John Turnbull

Master, MV Stena Inspector

[pl. check correct name and title with Rod].

It was a great pleasure, during my visit to MV Stena
Inspector, on 11 January, to meet you, Captain Rana and so
many of those under your command. I was deeply
impressed by the work you are doing in support of our
ship and send to you all my warm thanks and best wishes.

MOD requiring back.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Captain Young,

My visit to the Falkland Islands has provided me with many unforgettable memories. One which will always stand out among them is my reception on board HMS ANTRIM in San Carlos Bay in sparkling sunshine. We remembered together ANTRIM's role in different circumstances, in the recapture of South Georgia and in the Falklands campaign itself. Now you are defending the peace and freedom of the Falkland Islands and we all have the greatest confidence in the skills and determination of those whom you command. Please pass to all of them my thanks for their splendid work.

Thank you for the warmth of my reception, for a delightful luncheon and for your gifts which I shall always treasure.

My best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Raymond Stalter

Captain B.G. Young, D.S.O., R.N.

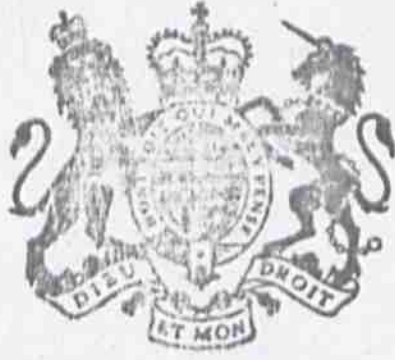
15

Letter to Captain B. G. Young, DSO RN

HMS Antoin

My visit to the Falkland Islands has provided
me with many unforgettable memories. One which will
always
long stand out away from is my ~~visit~~ reception on board
HMS Antoin in San Carlos Bay in sparkling sunshine.
We remembered together Antoin's role in difficult
circumstances, in the recapture of Fort ~~Spain~~ Georgia
and in the Falklands campaign itself. Now & you
we depend on the ^{peace of mind} freedom of the Falkland Islands and
we all have the greatest confidence in ~~your skills~~
the skills and determination of ~~Antoin's officers and crew~~
those whom you command. Please pass to all of them my thanks for
their splendid work.
Thank you for the warmth of my reception, for
a delightful luncheon and for your gifts which
I shall always treasure.

My best wishes ~~to all aboard~~



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

Dear Captain Dobson,

I thank you most warmly for everything which you, your staff and so many of those under your command did to give me, during my visit to the Falkland Islands, one of the most fascinating and rewarding experiences of my life.

I was delighted to be able to visit so many ships of the Royal Navy, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Merchant Marine and thrilled to be able to go to the scene of so many of the stirring events of last year's campaign.

I send you all my best wishes. You are doing wonderful work.

Yours sincerely

Royal Signature

Captain D.S. Dobson, R.N.

—

15

Letter to Captain D. S. Dobson RN

Swire Naval Office, Falkland Islands,
from the Home Director

May I thank you most warmly for
everything which you, your staff and so many of
those under your command did to give me, during
my visit to the Falkland Islands, one of the
most fascinating and rewarding experiences of my life.

I was delighted to be able to visit so many
many ships of the Royal Navy, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary
and the Merchant Marine ^{and thrilled} ~~to be reminded of~~
~~to be able to visit~~ ^{to} the scenes of so many of
the stirring events of last year's campaign.

~~You are all doing the most wonderful~~
~~work.~~ I send you all my best wishes. You are
doing a wonderful ~~job~~ work.