



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 June 1982

Dear Mr Stallard,

You wrote to me on 7 June about the possibility of returning the bodies of those killed in the Falkland Islands for burial in the United Kingdom. It is our traditional practice that servicemen who are killed in action on land abroad are buried in the first instance quickly with all possible reverence close to where they fall. Once hostilities are over, they are transferred to a permanent cemetery near to the scene of action. It has been the custom to offer the next of kin the opportunity to visit the site at public expense. Those who died at sea are buried at sea.

I believe that this practice is well understood, and that it provides equal treatment for all. That is why the Government believe that it should apply to those who die in the Falklands. But we recognise that this is an extremely sensitive question, and we would not wish to make a final decision until all relevant factors, including in particular the views of next of kin, have been taken into account.

A.W. Stallard, Esq., M.P.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

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