

Prime Minister 2

cc Press Office

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Argentina

MO 5/21

1st July 1982

pm.

Dear Willie

We told you last Tuesday of the proposed change of command in the South Atlantic. Rear Admiral Reffell is to replace Rear Admiral Woodward as Commander Task Group with effect from tomorrow, and Major General Thorne is to replace Major General Moore as Commander British Forces Falkland Islands on or about 17th July.

/ You might like to have the attached details of the two new Commanders.

Yours ever

Henry PIPER

(D T PIPER)

W F S Rickett Esq

STATEMENT OF SERVICE OF

REAR ADMIRAL D R REFFELL

Date of Birth: 6.10.28  
Entered Royal Navy: 1. 5.42  
Promoted Commander: 30. 6.63  
Promoted Captain: 31.12.70  
Promoted Rear Admiral: 7. 1.80  
Qualifications: (X)(N) psc odc(US)  
Married

Principal Appointments

As Commander

1963 - 65 Ministry of Defence for duty with Director of Naval Operations and Trade  
1965 - 67 HMS SIRIUS in Command  
1967 - 69 Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth as Executive Officer  
1969 - 70 Course at US Armed Forces Staff College

As Captain

1970 - 71 Staff of Commander Far East Fleet as Chief Staff Officer (Plans and Policy)  
1971 - 74 Ministry of Defence as Assistant Director Naval Warfare (Surface Warfare)  
1974 - 76 HMS HERMES in Command  
1976 - 78 Ministry of Defence as Director of Naval Warfare  
1978 - 79 Staff of Flag Officer Carriers and Amphibious Ships as Commodore Amphibious Warfare (in the rank of Commodore)

As Rear Admiral

1980 - 81 Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy)  
1982 Flag Officer Third Flotilla and Commander Anti-Submarine Group 2



## BIOGRAPHY

### MAJOR GENERAL D C THORNE CBE

Major General David Thorne was born on 13 December 1933. He was educated at St Edwards School, Oxford and entered the RMA Sandhurst in 1952. He was commissioned into the 1st Bn The Royal Norfolk Regiment (now The 1st Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment) in February 1954, and served in the 1st Bn as Platoon Commander (1954-55), Signal Officer (1956-57), Company Commander (1965-66) and Commanding Officer (1972-74). He has also served with the Territorial Army as Adjutant of the 4th Bn The Royal Norfolk Regiment from 1960-62.

After attending Staff College (1963), he has carried out staff appointments as GS02 Instructor RAF College, Cranwell (1964-65), GS02 DI2 in the MOD Intelligence Staff (1968-70), GS01 Directing Staff at the RAF Staff College (1970-72) and Colonel GS ASD 3/5 (Dec 1974-Oct 1977).

From Dec 1977 to Dec 1979, he commanded 3rd Infantry Brigade on operations in Northern Ireland, and in 1980 he attended a course at The Royal College of Defence Studies. He was appointed Vice Quarter-Master-General in January 1981.

General Thorne has represented the Army at cricket at both Service and Combined Service level; and he has also been capped for Norfolk. He has represented the Army at Inter-Service level at Squash Rackets; and has also represented Nottinghamshire and Norfolk.

He was awarded an OBE in 1975 on relinquishing Command of his battalion; and a CBE in 1980 for service on operations in Ulster with 3rd Brigade.

He is married, with a son and two daughters, and lives in Suffolk.

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