

RESTRICTED

~~HE~~ - of Hon's?
CF or GR NOT Honours



CF Young?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office AM

London SW1A 2AH

25 October 1983

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 21 October and its enclosures about the public announcement of the award of South Atlantic Battle Honours.

Lady Young is content with the way in which you propose the announcement should be handled. She asks, however, that MOD officials keep in close touch with the FCO about the timing of the announcement of the Army honours referred to in Answer 4 of the media briefing.

Yours ever

(Signature)

S G Eldon
PS/Baroness Young

D O Arnold-Forster Esq
Private Secretary to Lord Trefgarne
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1 2HB

cc: John Coles Esq, 10 Downing Street
David Beamish Esq, House of Lords

RESTRICTED

1985 11 2



11



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 2452 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT/1/1/5

21 October 1983

Stewart Eldon Esq
PS/Rt Hon Baroness Young PC
Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London SW1A 2AL

DA

24/10

Dear Stewart,

Further to Lord Trefgarne's letter of 13 October about the announcement next week of Falkland Battle Honours, it is now planned to announce the honours by means of written answers in both houses on Tuesday 25 October. Lord Trefgarne will also refer to them in his speech ... winding up the defence debate in the House of Commons. I attach a copy of the proposed Parliamentary Question and Answer, and a copy of the Q and A brief for the media. No doubt you will let me know if Lady Young sees any significant difficulties in what is proposed.

I am copying this letter and its enclosures to John Coles and David Beamish.

Yours Ever,

David

Private Secretary

QUESTION: To ask [the Secretary of State for Defence]/[HMG] if [he is]/[they are] yet able to make a statement on whether ships and units which took part in the Falklands campaign will be able to include the campaign in their battle honours.

ANSWER: Her Majesty The Queen has graciously approved the Award of battle honours to ships and units of the three Services and the Merchant Navy which took part in the campaign to liberate the Falkland Islands. The award of the battle honour "Falkland Islands 1982" is to be made to all HM ships, submarines and Fleet Air Arm squadrons which had passed or were below 35° South and were north of 60° South in the South Atlantic between 2 April and 14 June 1982. Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service vessels will similarly qualify as will ships taken up from trade in support of the operation. The ships and naval air squadrons which qualify are set out below.

The Theatre Honour "Falkland Islands 1982" together with honours for the engagement at Goose Green, Mount Longdon, Tumbledown Mountain and Wireless Ridge have been approved for the Army. Those Regiments which took part in the Campaign will be entitled to claim these honours in accordance with normal practice in the Army. After these claims have been considered by the Army Board recommendations will be submitted for Her Majesty The Queen's approval. I am therefore not able at this stage to list the Regiments which will be so honoured.

The Squadrons of the Royal Air Force listed below, which saw service between 2 April and 14 June 1982 South of 35° and North of 60° South or took part in an operational sortie south of Ascension Island will be awarded the battle honour "South Atlantic 1982".

HM SHIPS, NAVAL AIR SQUADRONS, RFAs, RMAs
AND MERCHANT NAVY VESSELS TO RECEIVE
THE BATTLE HONOUR "FALKLAND ISLANDS 1982"

HM SHIPS

HMS ACTIVE	HMS BRILLIANT
HMS ALACRITY	HMS BRISTOL
HMS AMBUSCADE	HMS BROADSWORD
HMS ANDROMEDA	HMS CARDIFF
HMS ANTELOPE	HMS COVENTRY
HMS ANTRIM	HMS CONQUEROR
HMS ARDENT	HMS CORDELLA
HMS ARGONAUT	HMS COURAGEOUS
HMS ARROW	HMS DUMBARTON CASTLE
HMS AVENGER	HMS ENDURANCE
HMS EXETER	HMS MINERVA
HMS FARNELLA	HMS NORTHELLA
HMS FEARLESS	HMS ONYX
HMS GLAMORGAN	HMS PENELOPE
HMS GLASGOW	HMS PICT
HMS HECLA	HMS PLYMOUTH
HMS HERALD	HMS SHEFFIELD
HMS HERMES	HMS SPARTAN
HMS HYDRA	HMS SPLENDID
HMS INTREPID	HMS VALIANT
HMS INVINCIBLE	HMS YARMOUTH
HMS JUNELLA	
HMS LEEDS CASTLE	

RN AIR SQUADRONS

737	809	824	829	847
800	815	825	845	848
801	820	826	846	899

ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARIES/ROYAL MARITIME AUXILIARY SERVICE VESSEL

RFA APPLELEAF	RFA RESOURCE
RFA BAYLEAF	RFA SIR BEDIVERE
RFA BLUE ROVER	RFA SIR GALAHAD
RFA BRAMBLELEAF	RFA SIR GERAIN
RFA ENGADINE	RFA SIR LANCELOT
RFA FORT AUSTIN	RFA SIR PERCIVALE
RFA FORT GRANGE	RFA SIR TRISTRAM
RFA OLMEDA	RFA STROMNESS
RFA OLNA	RFA TIDEPPOOL
RFA PEARLEAF	RFA TIDESPRING
RFA PLUMLEAF	RMAS TYPHOON
RFA REGENT	

MERCHANT SHIPS TAKEN UP FROM TRADE

MV ANCO CHARGER
SS ATLANTIC CAUSEWAY
SS ATLANTIC CONVEYOR
MV BALTIC FERRY
MV BRITISH DART
MV BRITISH ESK
MV BRITISH TAY
MV BRITISH TEST
MV BRITISH TRENT
MV BRITISH WYE
SS CANBERRA
MV CONTENDER BEZANT
MV ELK
MV EUROPIC FERRY
MV FORT TORONTO
MV GEESTPORT
CS IRIS
MT IRISHMAN
MV LYCAON
MV NORDIC FERRY
MV NORLAND
RMS QUEEN ELIZABETH 2
MV SAINT EDMUND
MT SALVAGEMAN
MV SAXONIA
MV SCOTTISH EAGLE
MV SHELL EBURNA

MV STENA SEASPREAD

MV TOR CALEDONIA

SS UGANDA

MV WIMPEY SEAHORSE

MT YORKSHIREMAN

RAF SQUADRONS TO RECEIVE THE BATTLE HONOUR

"SOUTH ATLANTIC 1982"

No 1(F) Squadron	Harrier
No 18 Squadron	Chinook
No 42 Squadron	Nimrod
No 44 Squadron	Vulcan
No 47 Squadron	Hercules
No 50 Squadron	Vulcan
No 51 Squadron	Nimrod
No 55 Squadron	Victor
No 57 Squadron	Victor
No 63 Squadron RAF Regiment	Rapier
No 70 Squadron	Hercules
No 101 Squadron	Vulcan
No 120 Squadron	Nimrod
No 201 Squadron	Nimrod
No 206 Squadron	Nimrod

DRAFT Q & A BRIEF

Q1 What is a battle honour?

A1 A battle honour is an official acknowledgement of the relevant units' participation in a successful campaign or engagement of which past, present and future generations of Servicemen can be proud.

Q2 Is there any significance in the timing of the announcement?

A2 No

Q3 Why is the Army not able to say which of its units will receive battle honours?

A3 It is established practice that Regiments must make a claim for battle honours which is then validated against their known involvement in a particular action or the campaign as a whole before being submitted to Her Majesty The Queen for approval.

Q4 When will Army battle honours be announced?

A4 The process of considering claims for honours is likely to take some months and it is not possible to say when final approval will be given. But a further announcement will be made at that stage.

Q5 When were battle honours last awarded?

A5 After the Korean War

Q6 Have battle honours been awarded previously to merchant ships?

A6 Yes, for certain categories of activity during the Second World War. (If pressed, these were merchant ships which took part directly in amphibious operations)

Q7 Is it not odd that merchant ships should receive battle honours?

A7 In determining to which ships awards should be made, account has been taken of precedent, and of the despatch by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, in which he stressed the contribution to the successful outcome made by all the elements of the Task Force.

Q8 Why not the Royal Marines?

A8 The Royal Marines will not be applying for battle honours as a result of the Falklands campaign. This is in accordance with the tradition spelt out in the following statement by the then Duke of Clarence (later King William IV) in 1827:

"The greatness of their number and the difficulty of selecting from amidst so many glorious deeds, such a portion as could be inserted in the space, determined His Majesty (King George IV) in lieu of the usual badges and mottoes on the Colours of the troops of the Line to direct that the "Globe Inserted with Laurel" should be the distinguishing badge as the most appropriate emblem of a Corps, whose duties carried them to all parts of the Globe in every quarter of which they had earned Laurels by their valour and good conduct."

Q9 Will the Army Honours when approved, be shown on the Colours?

A9 The Theatre Honour will be emblazoned on Regimental Colours. Engagement Honours will not be so emblazoned but will be published in the Army List as a permanent record.