

Hastings

25th June 1982

You wrote such a marvellous letter,
which I shall keep.

Thank you so much for having written
as you did; like you, I dare to hope
that we have rediscovered some of the
truths which we had thought we could
live with out.

When things are a little less hectic,
you must come and have a chat, and
I have asked Ian to arrange this.

Thank you again for your letter and
for the undeServed things which you say.

From: Stephen Hastings, M.C., M.P.



19/6/82.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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My Dear Prime Minister,

May I add my own tribute, admiration and thankfulness to you now the Falklands Campaign is so triumphantly concluded. So far as I am concerned all rested on two factors; your own determination and courage, and the bravery and skill of the armed forces. It was a time of terrible strain and loneliness for you and one's heart went out. Like so many I longed for something practical to do to help.

But all is well, and those who were lost, died for something far greater than possession of the islands. They died for liberty and the rule of law, and they have brought about the first stirrings of regeneration for the British people. We were not born to dwell meekly or sulkily with the memories of past greatness. We have not outlived our ~~good~~ destiny; your leadership and these young men have reminded us.

Perhaps the most important lesson, apart from tactics and defence equipment will turn out to be the knowledge that ~~all these~~ so many of the international bonds and conventions which have paralysed and inhibited not only this country, but the West as a whole for so many years, are in fact no more meaningful or useful than some of us felt they were. We longed for a breakout into reality, and this you have given us. Of course the glory will soon be obscured by the other side of our nature; all the selfish bargaining and bickering, but the Falklands will not be forgotten. The momentum you have gained for us need not and must not be lost.

I took a special private pride because the two units in which I served, the 2nd Bn Scots Guards and the 1st S.A.S. both

Seem to have distinguished themselves. May they all have a proud home
coming, and, I would hope, a campaign medal and a battle honour.

Thank you for giving us back our self respect. The
air seems fresh to breathe again -

Yours
Stephen

P.S. - Thank you also so much for your photograph, which
will always be cherished at Milton. Together with your letter.