

PA 12c  
26/4

Copy No 1 of 2

MO 5/21

22nd April 1982

Dear John,

Prime Minister

I gave you an oral account of this but you may like to read the report. A.S.C. 23/4.

May I attach the stop press which arrived as I was about to seal the envelope of the attached letter. The following information has just been received (0950 pm) from C in C Fleet at Northwood:

- a. All the survivors have now been successfully picked up.
- b. One helicopter confirmed as written off, but one which could be "salvaged."
- c. Force Commander's initial assessment is that his plan need not be altered but will be delayed with April 25/26 as earliest dates for a landing.
- d. Weather permitting, further recce landings will be made by small boat.
- e. HMS Brilliant (with two Lynx helicopters embarked) has been sailed to join the South Georgia group as a reinforcement - she will arrive on Sunday.

John and  
D B OMAND

A J Coles Esq



Copy No 1 of 2



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-~~2307872~~ 218 2111/3

MO 5/21

22nd April 1982

*Dear John,*

OPERATION PARAQUET - SPECIAL FORCES

May I set down in writing the facts as we know them as at 2130 hours concerning the helicopter crash on South Georgia.

2. The initial insertion of D Squadron SAS recce team from HMS Antrim into South Georgia was initially delayed yesterday by adverse weather. The first attempt was made but abandoned in what are described as appalling conditions of high wind and heavy snow. During a temporary and marginal improvement in conditions at 1430 yesterday (our time) the recce team of 16 members of the SAS was successfully inserted by a Wessex helicopter on to the Fortuna Glacier - position marked on the attached map. In a separate operation four members of the SBS were successfully inserted at a point some nine miles east of Grytviken (also marked on the map).
3. During this afternoon and evening the weather has rapidly deteriorated with South West winds gusting over 70 knots. At about 5pm this afternoon two Wessex Five helicopters were despatched from HMS Antrim in response to a call from the recce party who were reported as being in an untenable position on the glacier. As the Defence Secretary and CDS reported to the Prime Minister, both Wessex Five helicopters crashed in "whiteout" conditions while attempting to rescue the party.
4. We have now had confirmation that there were no casualties and the pilot, air crew and SAS team were unharmed. HMS Antrim will conduct a rescue operation using its Wessex Three helicopter as soon as conditions permit.
5. There is no evidence that any of this is known to the Argentinians, nor do we expect, given the distances, terrain and weather involved that it will become known. The numbers within the Ministry of Defence who are aware of this is very small.
6. If we receive news this evening of the successful recovery of the men back to HMS Antrim then I will let you know direct. We have made arrangements for any significant developments during the night to be reported to the MOD Resident Clerk (218 6002) who will report then, amongst others, to the No 10 Duty Clerk.

*Yours end*  
*(Signature)*  
 (D B OMAND)



TOP SECRET  
UK EYES B  
PERSONAL

Copy of 3 copies

S O U T H

54°00' 54°00'

SAS (16 men)  
landed  
211330Z

2 Womex I  
crashed  
221600Z(?)

A T L A N T I C

NOT TO BE USED FOR SURFACE  
OR SUB-SURFACE NAVIGATION

SBS (4 men)  
landed at  
220300Z.

TOP SECRET  
UK EYES B

