



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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MO 5/21

30th July 1982

Dear John,

Prime Minister

To note.

MR 30/7

FALKLANDS: WAR GRAVES

In your letter of 26th July you asked about progress on establishment of the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in the Falklands.

We are now ready to begin the process of consulting individual families about whether they want the bodies of their next of kin to be returned to the UK or buried formally in a cemetery in the Falklands. As soon as we know how many choose the latter option we will arrange for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to prepare the headstones and send them to Port Stanley where they can be erected over the graves into which the bodies will by then have been moved from their temporary burial places.

All this should be done by January 1983. However we do not believe it will be possible to prepare and erect by that date the memorial in the cemetery to all those buried or lost at sea or whose graves are unknown; nor will it be possible to carry out all the horticultural work on the cemetery - landscaping, planting of shrubs, and so on - which will be necessary to make it a more attractive setting. This second process will take some time. For these reasons we are thinking in terms of arranging visits for next of kin sometime during the following Falklands summer, ie a year after the 150th anniversary, when everything should be finally in place.

I am copying this to Francis Richards (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours ever,

Jane Ridley
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