

N. L. Wicks, Esq, CBE



*Mr. Wicks*  
*Mr. Addison*

*With*

*the Compliments of*

*Sir Clive Whitmore KCB CVO*

*Permanent Under-Secretary of State*

*to*  
*note*  
*DD*  
*10/7*

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JSPB/V87/638  
(9/31/F)

10th July, 1987.

*Dear Sir,*

'THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE FALKLANDS WAR'

I wrote to Michael Stark on 5th August last year to say that we had finally completed the clearance of the manuscript of the book on the naval campaign in the Falklands (then known as "Down South") by David Brown, the Head of our Naval Historical Branch, and that our Secretary of State was content for it to proceed to publication. As you know, there had been some previous correspondence between this office and yours about the principle and timing of the book's publication.

2. This is to give you advance warning that the book, now bearing the name shown in the title of this letter, is due to be launched next Tuesday at a lunchtime party on board HMS BELFAST. We have obtained an advance copy, and I am happy to say that selective checks confirm that amendments agreed with the author in the course of the clearance process have been incorporated.

3. The preface contains a disclaimer which says:

"Although what follows is published by permission of the Ministry of Defence, any opinions which may be expressed are my own and do not represent those of the Ministry, the Navy Department or the Naval Service as a whole."

This seems adequate, though as you know we have always recognised that the author's official position (to which, unfortunately, attention is specifically drawn on the front cover) was likely to detract, in the minds of readers, from the effect of any disclaimer. We are preparing a defensive press line on the circumstances of the book's preparation and on any particular points of interest.

4. I am copying this letter to Nigel Wicks and to Geoffrey Adams.

*Yes*

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JOHN S. PITT-BROOKE  
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