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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 December 1982

Dear Sir David,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December in which you have explained the basis of your recommendation for an award of £100 for the members of the Army Graves Registration Team in recognition of their work in the Falkland Islands. I am writing to tell you that the Government accepts the arguments for a lump sum payment and will implement your recommendation as soon as possible.

I am most grateful for the speed in which you and your colleagues have arrived at your findings.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir David Orr, M.C.

SPM

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

Defence



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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14th December 1982

Dear Michael,

My Secretary of State has seen Sir David Orr's letter of 6th December to the Prime Minister covering payment for Graves Registration work in the Falkland Islands. Mr Nott notes that these recommendations have been agreed by colleagues in the Treasury, and is satisfied that they are acceptable. I therefore enclose a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send in reply to Sir David Orr.

I am copying this to the recipients of your letter.

Yours ever,

Nick Evans.

(N H R EVANS)

M C Scholar Esq

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

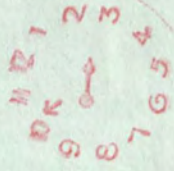
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DRAFT LETTER FROM PM TO SIR DAVID ORR

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Rre,

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 December 1982

REVIEW BODY ON ARMED FORCES PAY:
GRAVES REGISTRATION WORK

I attach a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Chairman of the Review Body on Armed Forces Pay. This recommends that a sum of £100 should be paid to each member of the Army Graves Registration Team in the Falkland Islands.

I would be grateful if you could let me have, in consultation with the other departments concerned, an early draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Sir David Orr.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Margaret O'Mara (HM Treasury) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

M. C. SCHOLAR

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence



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The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

6 December 1982

Dear Prime Minister

REVIEW BODY ON ARMED FORCES PAY

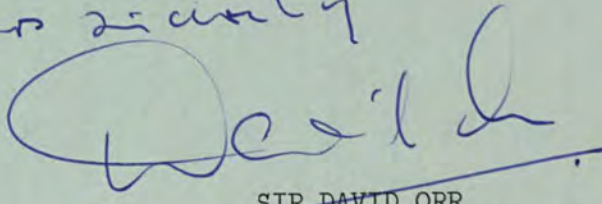
The Ministry of Defence, with the agreement of the Treasury, have recently asked the Review Body to consider the question of a special payment to servicemen involved in Graves Registration tasks following the Falkland Islands' conflict. We were requested to consider this in advance of our normal review timetable so that any resulting payment could be put into effect as soon as possible. We have now had an opportunity to do so.

We have no doubt that an additional payment is justified in the particular circumstances. The task was exceptionally harrowing and involved work far beyond normal military duties. All involved were volunteers, drawn from Pioneer Units in the United Kingdom.

The proposals put to us were for the introduction of a separate standing form of daily payment for Graves Registration work, to be set at a level of £7 a day. However, we see a special form of pay at a set rate as inappropriate to the nature, extent and likely frequency of this type of work. We have been told that the task in the Falklands is now complete and that it involved a small team of 12 men who, whatever their rank, were involved equally in the work which took a total of 14 days. In these circumstances, we consider a single lump sum payment to be the most suitable means of recognising the task carried out by these men.

In assessing an appropriate amount, we have had very much in mind the nature of this particular task and the circumstances in which it was undertaken. We consider that a sum of £100 would be appropriate and recommend payment of such an amount to each member of the Army Graves Registration Team in the Falkland Islands.

We hope that the payment can be effected at an early date. It is in order to facilitate this that I am writing to you now, although we shall no doubt need to refer to this recommendation in due course as part of our overall recommendations to you at the end of the current review.

Your sincerely

SIR DAVID ORR
CHAIRMAN, REVIEW BODY
ON ARMED FORCES PAY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
JANUARY 1982



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