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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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27th April 1990

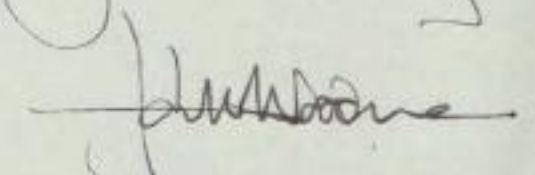
Dear Charles,

GALLIPOLI COMMEMORATIONS

I understand that the FCO are separately providing the majority of the briefing for the Prime Minister's visit to Gallipoli next week, but I attach the following additional material which you may find useful:

- The programme for the Prime Minister's visit to HMS ARGONAUT;
- A brief on HMS ARGONAUT and personality notes on its Commanding Officer and FOF 2;
- Personality notes on the five British Gallipoli veterans to whom Prime Minister will be introduced at the British Ceremony.
- The Defence Secretary's programme. (As you know, Winston Churchill MP will be travelling with my Secretary of State).

I am copying this letter to Stephen Wall (FCO).

Yours sincerely  
  
(I M WOODMAN)  
Private Secretary

Charles Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

HMS ARGONAUT (F56) - LEANDER CLASS FRIGATE

- Commanding Officer - Captain John Clarke LVO MBE (c.v. at Annex A)

- List of Officers - Annex B

- HMS ARGONAUT was laid down in November 1964 at Hawthorn Leslie Ltd, Heburn-on-Tyne, launched in February 1966 and commissioned in August 1967. She has been refitted twice; once in 1976 when she underwent conversion to an Exocet type Leander, and again in 1983 on her return from the Falklands.

- Since being commissioned, ARGONAUT has served with the ARMILLA patrol, in the Far East, the Mediterranean and Western Atlantic and carried out fishery protection duties, most notably with the Icelandic patrol during the "Cod War" in 1973. In 1982, she was among the second group of ships to be deployed to the Falkland Islands, accompanying the amphibious forces from Ascension Island. She was forced to return to the UK almost immediately, after being hit by a bomb on arrival at San Carlos Bay.

- Prior to this deployment, ARGONAUT was on patrol in the Atlantic. Following her visit to Turkey and attendance at the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, she will take part in the NATO exercise OPEN GATE.

## LEANDER CLASS FRIGATES

- The Leander Class was the largest class of frigates to be built for the Royal Navy since the Second World War, numbering 22 vessels. They were designed to carry out a general purpose role, in addition to their main anti-submarine capabilities. When first built, they were armed with a triple-barrelled anti-submarine mortar, the Seacat missile system, a twin 4.5 inch gun and a Wasp anti-submarine helicopter.
- Eighteen of this class have been extensively modernised and fitted with the Ikara anti-submarine weapon system, while twelve, including ARGONAUT, are fitted with the Exocet surface-to surface missile system and anti-submarine torpedo tubes which replaced the anti-submarine mortar. Four ships, including ARGONAUT, have also been fitted with towed array sonar. The Wasp helicopter has been replaced by the Lynx multi-purpose helicopter.
- The ships have a complement of between 230 and 270, depending on its size and capabilities. They are 113 metres long, have a beam of either 12.5 or 13.1 metres, a displacement of 2,600 tonnes and are powered by two sets of steam turbines, capable of giving speeds in excess of 30 knots.

PROGRAMME FOR VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER TO HMS ARGONAUT

25 APRIL 1990

1710 - Depart Kabatepe by LYNX helicopter

1715 - Embark HMS ARGONAUT

Timings as arranged by CO HMS ARGONAUT

- To Commanding Officer's cabin for refreshments etc. as required
- PM presents two Long Service and Good Conduct medals to ARGONAUT ratings (on Exocet deck or in aft cabin depending on weather)
- PM meets members of ship's company including members of the Guard of Honour
- PM visits Operations Room (control centre for UK military involvement in day's events)
- PM visits bridge - possible steam past by HMS BROADSWORD

(if PM wishes to address the ship's company the opportunity will be available for her to do so)

- To Commanding Officer's cabin for refreshments etc. as required

1755 - To flight deck for LYNX helicopter flight ashore.

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DETAILS OF VETERANS ON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PILGRIMAGE TO GALLIPOLI

1. ARTHUR BULL

DOB 12.8.95 Age 94

Served in the rank of corporal in B Sqn Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

Enlisted Birmingham 1914.

Landed at Suvla Bay August 1915.

Suffers from bronchitis, slightly hard of hearing.

Sponsored by the Times.

2. JIMMY PAGE

DOB 15.12.95 Age 94

Enlisted August 1914.

Served in the rank of Bombardier, Royal Field Artillery.

Landed at Suvla Bay August 1915. Hospitalised September 1915.

Returned to take part in the main evacuation January 1916, subsequently served in Salonika 1916/17 and in Egypt until 1919.

Demobbed 1919 to follow career as electrical engineer.

Resident of Star and Garter Home, Richmond.

Slightly hard of hearing, still very active.

Sponsored by ITV.

3. ARTHUR SCUDAMORE, OBE

DOB 10.11.96 Age 93

Served in the rank of private in 2nd/10th Middlesex Regiment from 1914 - 1919. Landed at Suvla Bay 8 August 1915. Of his 1000-strong battalion only 190 were left to be evacuated in January 1916. Subsequently served in Egypt and Palestine.

Post war career in the Civil Service.

Will lay a wreath at the Cape Helles memorial on behalf of the Gallipoli Association.

Fit, lucid.

4. FRED WRAY

DOB 16.5.99 Age 90

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Joined RNVR Naval Division under age in January 1915 (aged 15). Arrived Gallipoli May 1915. Landed at Suvla Bay with the 29th Division in a support role, spent 16th birthday in the line. Hospitalised to Australian hospital with dysentery before being returned to UK for discharge (under age) in 1916. Rejoined in 1917 and served with the army in France.

Holds 1914 Star from the Navy and General Service Medal from the Army.

Subsequent career as a shoemaker until retirement.

Fit, lucid.

5. FRANCIS CHING

DOB 16.12.97 Age 92

Served in the rank of private in the Somerset Light Infantry, the 5th Leinsters and the Army Cycling Corps. (664 bicycles were taken to Gallipoli though few were used in the event on account of the lack of roads.) Landed at Suvla Bay 14 August 1915.

Demobbed after the war to work in mining and water engineering until retirement.

Fit and lucid.

Sponsored by Sky TV.

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## The Flag Officer Flotilla Two

Rear Admiral P.C. Abbott



**The Flag Officer Flotilla Two assumes tactical command at sea as the RN Commander of National Task Groups formed by CINCFLEET for exercise, operations and transition to war tasks. In particular FOF2 has responsibility delegated to him for close monitoring of the Gulf, Falkland Islands and Caribbean areas, while advising CINCFLEET on plans and operations outside the NATO area. He is normally the RN 'Out of Area Commander' of RN Forces.**

Rear Admiral Peter Abbott was educated at Queens' College, Cambridge. He then became an articled clerk to a large firm of city accountants and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the RMFVR; he resigned and joined the Royal Navy in 1964. He has served in all kinds of surface ships and has commanded HM Ships CHAWTON, AMBUSCADE and AJAX. Promoted Commander in 1975 whilst serving on the staff of the Senior Naval Officer West Indies, in Bermuda, he was then promoted Captain in 1980 when he was second in command of the aircraft carrier, HMS BULWARK.

His staff appointments include time in Naval Plans; briefing the Chief of Defence Staff during the Falklands war and MA to DCDS. He commanded the First Frigate Squadron and attended the RCDS. He was the Director of Navy Plans from 1985 until taking up his appointment as FOF2 in 1989.

Rear Admiral Abbott married Susan Grey in 1965 and has three daughters.



ANNEX A

CAPTAIN JOHN CLARKE LVO MBE RN

- Captain John Clarke, the Commanding Officer of HMS ARGONAUT and Captain of the Seventh Frigate Squadron joined the Royal Navy in 1963 from Epsom College.

- Most of his early career was spent in submarines and his first post on promotion to Commander was as Commanding Officer of HMS DREADNOUGHT, the first nuclear propelled submarine. In 1980, he became the Commanding Officer of the Submarine Command course, based in HMS DOLPHIN at Gosport. He then spent two years in the Directorate of Naval Warfare in Whitehall, and was appointed as Executive Officer on HMY BRITTANNIA in 1985.

- On his promotion to Captain in 1986, he became Captain of Submarine Sea Training. He took command of HMS ARGONAUT in January 1989. In July 1990, will return to Whitehall to join the Directorate of Naval Staff Duties as Assitant Director of the division.

- Captain Clarke lives in Somerset and is married with three children.



ANNEX BHMS ARGONAUT: LIST OF OFFICERS

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>
CO	Capt	John Clarke
XO	Lt Cdr	David Lister
SO	Lt Cdr	Robert Scott
WEO	Lt Cdr	Geoffrey Turner
MEO	Lt Cdr	John Wadham
Flight Commander	Lt Cdr	Michael Pamphilon
Ops Off	Lt Cdr	Jeffrey Phillips
Deputy SO	Lt	John Farmery BA
2nd Pilot	Lt	Jeremy Tribe BSc
PWO	Lt	Russell Pegg
Off of the Watch(1)	Lt	Norman Tomsett
Nav Off	Lt	Edward Dewing
Comms Off	Lt	Stephen Kerslake
Flight Observer	Lt	Mark Graham
Off of the Watch(2)	Sub-Lt	David Benwick
Off under training	ASub-Lt	Nicholas Beng
Off under training	ASub-Lt	Michael McGuire
Deputy MEO	WO	Graham Brown
Deputy WEO	WO	John Elston
<u>SEVENTH SQUADRON FRIGATE STAFF</u>		
Squadron MEO	Cdr	David Perkins BSc, CEng, MImechE
Squadron WEO	Cdr	Richard Lindley MIElecIE MIBM
Squadron METOC Off	Lt Cdr	Charles Keal BED
Squadron Ops Off	Lt Cdr	Anthony Rix
Deputy Squadron Metoc Off	Lt	Andrew Davison
Squadron Medical Off	Surg Lt	Mark Groom MB ChB