

FC 951.



Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

File No.
35

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE STAMP

Telephone 01-218 6621 (Direct Dialling)
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

DATE 7.5.82 COPIES 2

D/MIN/TT/12/3/2

JW

6 May 1982

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1982	
LONDON	

Dear Henry

I see you have written again (30th April) to Terry Lewin, perhaps this crossed my letter of 28th April to you. I hope that my previous letter has answered your question.

I looked up the Hansard reference to which you referred which reads:

" I think we could do quite well without erratic and sometimes contradictory remarks from Flag Officers of the Royal Navy".

Hansard then says:

•A Lord: "Hear, hear!"

My previous letter has made it clear that Terry, who is up to his eyes, and all of us, are clear that this excellent Commander has perhaps not had previous experience of having journalists on his ship. You know that things will go wrong in an operation of this kind and I know you will be among the 'all good men and true' who support the

/ Government ...

The Lord Benson GBE

FC 7-3

AGENCY FOR ACTION (OPI) - THE INVESTING & MAY 1962 AT THE
AGENCY ITEM 1 (INTERNAL SECURITY)

Government in spite of the things which go wrong, including the recent tragic ones.

We can achieve our objectives militarily if we fail diplomatically, but we still very much hope that background diplomacy will succeed.

Woodward is a really first class commander

Yours Truly

Trenchard

Copy to:
CDS ✓

"Lure" for submarines, 1 dead

1 confirmed dead

5 presumed dead

12 FN missing

1 UK laundryman sleeping

There are 264 survivors, including:

1 VSI

2 SI

11 Potentially serious

7 Potentially minor

3 minor

(2) Amphibious Co

(a) Amphibious Unit (TU 317-0-4), New 1200 miles SW of Assumption and due at holding position 7 May.

(b) Personnel Unit (TU 317-0-5), New 1200 miles SW of Assumption and due at holding position 7 May.

At Assumption by Intrepid and Atlantic Conveyor; Europa Ferry and Horizon arrived there today. Unit will be in 2 sections today and tomorrow.