

Handwritten scribble



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20 September 1982

Handwritten initials

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London W1

Handwritten initials

Dear Prime Minister

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have sent to
Mr Geoffrey Pattie MP.

In view of your letter to me on the subject dated
10 August I thought the contents would be of interest.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of David Clark

Dr David Clark MP

Enc.

20 September 1982

Mr Geoffrey Pattie MP
Under-Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Minister

You will recall that towards the end of July I came to see you about the possibility of repair work arising from the Falklands War to be placed in the ship repair yards in South Shields. As you will remember these yards were threatened with closure but agreement is now imminent that the Middle Docks repair facilities be retained. It has come to my attention that HMS INTREPID is in Portsmouth and the Royal Dock Yards have too much other work in hand to deal with her in the near future.

Can I formally request that HMS INTREPID be moved to South Shields for any repair and refitting work which may be necessary?

I do not hesitate to make this request in view of the fact that her sister ship, HMS FEARLESS was refitted in Middle Docks in 1980-1. The success of that refit was evidenced during the Falklands affair and the quality of the workmanship has been universally praised. In support of this I am enclosing a copy of the Captain's complimentary comments on this work.

I know that you are anxious to get HMS INTREPID back in shape as soon as possible and I look forward to an early reply and anticipate that INTREPID will be sent to South Shields.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister whom as you know has written to me on the subject.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clark MP

Enc.

APM
Mr D LAYDIS
Managing Director
Tyne Ship Repair Limited

Mr J HALL
Assistant Production Director
Tyne Ship Repair Limited (North)

25 October 1981

Gentlemen

It was with sense of true affection that HMS FEARLESS said goodbye to Tyne Ship Repair Limited on Monday last; an affection which has developed over the past fifteen months into one of deep trust and respect for the resourceful men of Tyneside and particularly of Middle Docks. I would even go so far as to say that were there more like your team, management and shop floor, in the country with a will to work then I believe we would not be in our present parlous state.

Your most generous gift is proving invaluable already and has added a new dimension to our welfare and training. We are most grateful and indebted to you all.

Our very best wishes to you and may many more ships in need of repair find their way to the Tyne in the future.

Yours sincerely

Jennyfer

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OR

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL
S.W.1

With the Compliments of

the Private Secretary

to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary

of State for Defence

Procurement

W.W. / S.W.

copy of letter as requested



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
~~FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE~~
for Defence Procurement

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 6666 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

DP/GP573/82

1st October 1982

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 20th September concerning the refitting requirements of HMS INTREPID. Whilst it is true that HMS INTREPID is currently at Portsmouth she is not awaiting either refit or repair. Her next refit, which accords with the laid down usage/upkeep pattern for this class of vessel, is planned to commence in January 1984.

There have been some changes to the Naval warship refit and repair requirement over the past 6 months or so as a result of the Falklands conflict but present indications are that only minor adjustments will need to be made to the strategy outlined at the time of the Defence Review. For the foreseeable future the capacity available in the Royal dockyards, after allowing for the abandonment of the major mid-life modernisation for our surface vessels, increased refitting intervals for nuclear submarines, revised upkeep cycles for surface warships, and the impact of the four warships lost during the conflict, will be sufficient to accommodate the normal refitting requirements of the Fleet as well as the repair of damage sustained in the South Atlantic.

Restoration to their former role of those ships taken up from trade (STUFT) is being handled entirely by the commercial sector. Tyne Shiprepair Ltd have in fact already processed two such vessels (CEDAR BANK and TOR CALEDONIA) and will certainly be among the contractors considered when further work is required on STUFT vessels.

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Dr David Clark MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

I regret that I cannot be more helpful but you will appreciate that we must make maximum use of the capacity of the Royal Dockyards before turning to the commercial sector. There remains a possibility that some RFA work will need to be put to contract because of short term docking or priority problems within the Dockyards. If this becomes necessary the RFAs concerned would be offered to the Trade on a competitive tendering basis, as is the usual custom, of course, and Tyne Shiprepair will be among the companies invited to tender.

John

John

(GEOFFREY PATTIE)



Full
Dr. David CLARK
MP

4/10

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 September 1982

Dr. David Clark, M.P. wrote to you on 20 September about the possibility that HMS Intrepid might be moved to South Shields for repair and refitting. As you know, Dr. Clark copied his letter to the Prime Minister in view of her meeting with him on 30 July and subsequent letter of 10 August. I should be grateful, therefore, if you could send a copy of Mr. Pattie's reply to the Prime Minister by Monday, 4 October.

(TIM FLESHER)

Nigel Fuller, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

Fisher

22 September 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 20 September, together with a copy of one you have sent to Mr. Geoffrey Pattie, M.P.

I will place this before the Prime Minister on her return from the Far East.

(TIM FLESHER)

Dr. David Clark, M.P.