

Flight Sergeant Jopling was manning an air defence machine gun position on the bridge during the attack. The missile started a fire on the ship which rapidly spread out of control and the decision was taken to abandon the stricken vessel. Flight Sergeant Jopling was among the last to leave the bridge and, as he descended towards the main deck, he was enveloped by thick black smoke. He rapidly donned his respirator and led several people onwards in a human chain but, realising that it would be impossible for the others to survive without respirators, he had to retreat. He eventually found an alternative path within the ship and led his party of survivors to the main deck where they climbed over the side and entered the water prior to boarding a liferaft. The liferaft Flight Sergeant Jopling selected was one of the few remaining and was overcrowded; he, together with several others, was unable to board it. The sea was very cold and night had fallen, adding to the difficulties. The liferaft was still attached to the ship and was being buffeted against the ship's side as the ship rolled. Realising the danger this represented to the liferaft and its occupants, Flight Sergeant Jopling made his way around the liferaft and, despite being struck several times by the ship, eventually managed to sever the lines holding the liferaft to the blazing hulk. As the occupants of the liferaft became more organised, other survivors were gradually brought on board. Flight Sergeant Jopling appreciated that as he was wearing aircrew survival equipment, he was better placed than other survivors in the water. He therefore elected to remain in the sea, encouraging and helping men to hold onto the liferaft; only when he had ensured that there were no more survivors in the water, did he allow himself to be dragged, exhausted, aboard. He was in the water for between one and two hours in extremely hazardous conditions. Flight Sergeant Jopling acted in the finest traditions of the Royal Air Force and his selfless conduct undoubtedly saved many lives.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Whitehall, London, S.W.1
11th October, 1982

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of The Queen's Gallantry Medal in recognition of gallantry during the operations in the South Atlantic.

Mention in Despatches

Squadron Leader John Geoffrey ELLIOTT 608743, Royal Air Force.
Squadron Leader Robert Douglas IVESON 4233414, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Edward Henry BALL 5201241, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Mark William James HARE 5202373, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Gordon Carnie GRAHAM 8026356, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Alan Tom JONES 593549, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Ian MORTIMER 5202579, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Hugh PRIOR 4160477, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Richard John RUSSELL, A.F.C. 2485566, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Robert Dennis WRIGHT 8021320, Royal Air Force.
Flying Officer Peter Lewis TAYLOR 2624527, Royal Air Force.
Flying Officer Colin MILLER 8027110, Royal Air Force.
F0681327 Flight Sergeant Derek William KNIGHTS, Royal Air Force.
R8086882 Corporal Alan David TOMLINSON, Royal Air Force.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct in recognition of service during the operations in the South Atlantic.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

L8171807 Junior Technician Adrian THORNE Royal Air Force.
P8183010 Senior Aircraftman Kenneth James SOPPETT-MOSS Royal Air Force.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of The Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air in recognition of service during the operations in the South Atlantic.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Squadron Leader Ernest Frederick WALLIS, M.B.E. 2524523, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Michael Ernest BEER 4231811, Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant James Dalrymple CUNNINGHAM 687875, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant John Norman KEABLE 4175018, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Murdo MacDonald MACLEOD 8025506, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Glyn David REES 8020929, Royal Air Force.
Flight Lieutenant Robert Leslie ROWLEY 8025695, Royal Air Force.
E8083447 Flight Sergeant Stephen Edward SLOAN Royal Air Force.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London, S.W.1
11th October, 1982

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotion in, and appointments to, the Most Honourable Order of the Bath in recognition of service within the operations in the South Atlantic:

Order of the Bath (Military Division)

K.C.B.

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders, of the said Most Honourable Order:

Major General John Jeremy MOORE, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.*.
Rear Admiral John Forster WOODWARD.

C.B.

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Honourable Order:

Air Vice-Marshal George Arthur CHESWORTH, O.B.E., D.F.C., Royal Air Force.
Commodore Michael Cecil CLAPP, Royal Navy.
Air Vice-Marshal Kenneth William HAYR, C.B.E., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.
Brigadier Julian Howard Atherden THOMPSON, O.B.E., A.D.C., Royal Marines.
Rear Admiral Anthony John WHETSTONE.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1
11th October, 1982

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in recognition of service within the operations in the South Atlantic:

Order of the British Empire (Military Division)

G.B.E.

To be an Additional Knight Grand Cross of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Admiral Sir John David Elliott FIELDHOUSE, G.C.B.

K.B.E.

To be an Additional Knight Commander of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Air Marshal Sir John Bagot CURTISS, K.C.B., Royal Air Force.
Vice Admiral David John HALLIFAX.

C.B.E.

To be Additional Commanders of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Captain Paul BADCOCK, Royal Navy
Captain Nicholas John BARKER, Royal Navy.
Colonel Ian Stuart BAXTER, M.B.E. (456440), late Royal Corps of Transport.
Colonel John David BIDMEAD, O.B.E. (423413), late Royal Corps of Transport.
Captain Christopher Peter Oldbury BURNE, Royal Navy.
Colonel (Now Brigadier) David Bryan Hall COLLEY, O.B.E. (433082), late Royal Corps of Transport.