



10 DOWNING STREET

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Opening forward
to new next AAC
Journal!
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27 February 1986

Dear Major Deane

I refer to our recent correspondence about the Army Air Corps Journal.

The Prime Minister was pleased to meet your request and has asked me to forward you the enclosed contribution for inclusion in this year's Journal. As you will see, I am also enclosing a photograph of Mrs Thatcher which you might like to use alongside the article.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Beth Frier

BETH FRIER
PRESS OFFICE

Major T M Deane (Ret'd)



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THE PRIME MINISTER

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge in your Journal the excellent work and progress of the Army Air Corps since its formation over 28 years ago.

Who could have imagined then, when the British Army only had a small number of light aircraft for artillery spotting and observation, and the helicopter was in its infancy, that today you would take your place alongside the tank, armed with a weapon of great speed and power?

But despite this rapid evolution, many people would be surprised to learn that the Army owns and flies the largest fleet of helicopters in the land - practically as many as the Navy and RAF combined. This should be more widely recognised for it shows how far you have come since those early days.

Today the Army Air Corps is deployed in almost every country where the British Army operates, often in small independent flights commanded by junior officers. This is entirely in keeping with your tradition and presents young officers and NCOs with a wonderful opportunity to take on greater responsibility.

Your performance, like that of all our helicopter pilots in the Falkland Islands in 1982, won everyone's praise and admiration. It is only on such occasions that the vital need for helicopters specifically for the evacuation of casualties is really brought home. This is

all too easily forgotten in peacetime, but more than 200 of your fellow servicemen, wounded in battle and evacuated to safety by Army Air Corps and Royal Marine helicopters, are today a living testimony to this most essential task.

I know that this is the year in which you have your biennial International Air Show at Middle Wallop. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Army Air Corps, the British Services and the many participating NATO armies to demonstrate their skill and professionalism to the public. Middle Wallop has become an excellent platform for the British aerospace industry to promote its products in the specialised and very important helicopter market. I wish you every success with this unique enterprise.

Nargant Khatib

FEBRUARY 1986