



Ministry  
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
FLOOR 5, ZONE B, MAIN BUILDING  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

THE RT HON TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP  
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER  
FOR DEFENCE PEOPLE AND VETERANS

PQO/17-19/2018/14694

3 December 2018

During Oral Questions on 26 November 2018, I undertook to write to you regarding the question you raised in respect of veterans' visits to battlefield sites in the Falkland Islands.

The South Atlantic Airbridge is a Voyager passenger aircraft which routinely serves the Falkland Islands and already allows for veterans to visit. As a civilian registered aircraft, civilians can purchase tickets at normal prices. In addition, I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence sponsors a Concessionary Travel scheme which allows holders of the South Atlantic Medal to travel to the Falkland Islands at a reduced cost when booked through the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) 83 organisation. A return flight currently costs £248, and full application details for South Atlantic Medal holders can be found at the following website: <https://www.sama82.94g.ukflights/>.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

**THE RT HON TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP**

Maggie Throup MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Maggie Throup (Erewash) (Con)

T4. Will my right hon. Friend look at refreshing the Heroes Return scheme for the next generation of veterans so that those who served in the Falklands, the first Gulf war and Kosovo have the same opportunities that my father did when he returned to Burma? [907827]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Tobias Ellwood)

Mr Speaker, I did not actually hear the question, but, unless my hon. Friend is able to repeat it, I would be delighted to meet her afterwards to discuss the matter further. All I heard was a reference to the Falkland Islands.

Mr Speaker

I am sorry, but there is probably a lesson there. It is quite a crowded House, so Members need to speak up a bit.

Dr Julian Lewis (New Forest East) (Con)

May I give the Minister a second chance to answer the question that he could not hear earlier about veterans being given the opportunity to revisit the battlefields on which they have fought?

Mr Ellwood

It is important that we give veterans the opportunity to return to the battlefields. I think that my right hon. Friend is referring to a return to the Falklands. I will endeavour to see what can be done, and whether we can use the air bridge to allow veterans to return to that battle place.