



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2021/08662

E-mail: NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
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16 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 August 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'I am in the process of building a 1:350 scale model of HMS MONMOUTH and HMS ARGYLL from kits.

As both kits came with the Merlin Helicopter, could you provide me with the dates of the last Merlin to be assigned to each ship and any available photos of those helicopters, digital images are quite acceptable, so that I can correctly apply the markings and paint for those two model ships helicopters. (The Merlin for the HMS MONMOUTH kit seems to be from January 2009 and the ARGYLL is unidentified)

I want to be sure I'm building the display model correctly and appreciate any assistance you can provide in allowing me to more accurately apply details to this model.'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

With regard to the last Merlin Helicopter to be assigned to HMS MONMOUTH, I can tell you the final aircraft assigned to the ship was a Merlin HM Mk1. Its registration number was ZH852 and it was from 829 Naval Air Squadron.

With regard to HMS ARGYLL, no recorded information on the last Merlin Helicopter to be assigned to the ship is held by the Department. I can however advise you that it would have not been unusual for various aircraft to embark during a duty period so it may have been the case that there wasn't one specific helicopter assigned solely to the ship.

In regard to photos of the aircraft onboard both HMS MONMOUTH and HMS ARGYLL, imagery of helicopters embarked on vessels are available at the following link:

<https://imagery.royalnavy.mod.uk>

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, it may help if I explain that photographic products are only held by the Royal Navy for three years before being sent to the Imperial War Museum (IWM) as an alternative repository. Should you wish to contact the museum in relation to your request, their contact details are as follows:

The Imperial War Museum

Website: [The Imperial War Museum](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

Post: The Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section