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From The Military Assistant

23 May 2014

Dear Mr Kentish

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 16 April about Mr Sam Lipfriend. I was very sorry to learn that Mr Lipfriend passed away. The Prime Minister has asked me to pass on his deep condolences to the family, especially his wife, Pam.

You requested a short message to read out during your Annual Reunion Dinner, on 5 July, as a tribute. I am pleased to offer the message below on behalf of the Prime Minister.

“It was with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of Sam Lipfriend. I want to offer my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. He was a remarkable man from a remarkable generation.

This evening is an opportunity to focus on his life and the legacy, which he and his colleagues of Bomber Command have left our nation. Their selfless commitment and sense of duty against overwhelming odds will be an inspiration for generations to come. To have been able to meet Sam last year and present him with his Bomber Command Clasp in recognition of his service was both an honour and a privilege. I will always be grateful that I had the chance to meet him.”

Please accept our best wishes for the dinner’s success and thank you, once again, for writing.

Yours sincerely

COLONEL GWYN JENKINS OBE ROYAL MARINES

Mr Don Kentish