



Ministry of Defence

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Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet
National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington DC 20230

30 Apr 20

Dear Admiral,

Thank you for reaching out to my team here at the British Embassy to discuss NOAA's activities on the shipwreck site of the HMT BEDFORDSHIRE, and in particular the potential expansion of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of North Carolina.

As you know we already have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NOAA centred on the management of one of our war time casualties, HMT BEDFORDSHIRE, where NOAA periodically provides updates on public outreach initiatives and on-going research at the site. It is the United Kingdom's policy to follow international custom with regards to ships sunk with their crew members in war, to leave the wrecks and our military remains at sea and, where appropriate, award them a special protective status. HMT BEDFORDSHIRE is an important part of our Naval Historical Heritage and we value the work that NOAA undertakes to preserve our military remains.

Further protection of HMT BEDFORDSHIRE, alongside the preservation of other World War II shipwrecks off North Carolina, can only be beneficial in maintaining their historical significance and help increase levels of national awareness both in the United Kingdom and the United States. NOAA and the mission of the National Marine Sanctuaries are uniquely positioned to protect and honour shipwrecks important to our shared heritage. Expanding the boundaries of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary to include World War II shipwrecks such as the HMT BEDFORDSHIRE is an excellent proposal and has the Royal Navy's full support. In doing this we would like to ensure that management of the HMT BEDFORDSHIRE site also remains within the terms of the 2014 NOAA / UK Memorandum of Agreement. Thank you for your work on this matter, and in particular to David Alberg and Joseph Hoyt for their assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Signed electronically

Philip Nash
Commodore Royal Navy
British Naval Attaché

Copy to: Navy Command Charities and Heritage Team Leader