

NEWS CONTINUED**HMS NOTTINGHAM: COURTS MARTIAL VERDICT**

The captain of the Type 42 destroyer HMS Nottingham that struck a rock near Lord Howe Island, 200 miles off the coast of Australia in the summer of 2002, has been reprimanded for neglecting his duties.

Cdr Richard Farrington and three of his senior officers from HMS Nottingham appeared before a courts martial hearing at Portsmouth Naval Base on 11 September.

Charges

Cdr Farrington did on 7/7/02 negligent to perform the duty imposed on him by the Queen's Regulations for the safe direction and management of HMS Nottingham by failing to properly delegate conduct of the ship to his Executive Officer.

Lt Cdr Lea and Lt Ingham did on 7/7/02 by negligence allow HMS Nottingham to be stranded.

Lt Denney did on 7/7/02 by negligence cause HMS Nottingham to be stranded.

Verdict

Lt Denney (OOW) - Dismissed Ship
Lt Ingham (Navs) - Severe Reprimand
Lt Cdr Lea (XO) - Dismissed Ship
Cdr Farrington (CO) - Reprimand

The MOD issued the following statement:

At today's Courts Martial following the grounding of HMS Nottingham, four of the Ship's Officers were charged, pleaded guilty and have been sentenced accordingly. The Royal Navy places a strong emphasis on the importance of safe navigation and this is reflected in the extremely high quality of Navigation Training conducted today. Royal Navy Ships operate safely across the globe on a daily basis, in sometimes hostile, always demanding, navigational and operational situations. Royal Naval Training takes these constant hazards into account in order to prevent instances of this nature. The excellence of the design and build of the ship combined with the high quality calibre of the ship's company assured the safety of the ship and crew. The prompt and courageous actions of the ship's company in dealing with this incident reflect the high standard of training conducted both regularly at sea and ashore.



Commander Farrington arriving at the courts martial hearing

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