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COS(Misc) 162/742/1

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BATTLE CASUALTY REPLACEMENTS

1. In accordance with the instructions (1) of the Chiefs of Staff, the attached Note has been prepared by ACDS(P&L) in consultation with the Service Departments and the Task Force Commander.

2. Unless the Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee hears to the contrary by telephone (Ext 6804) by 1700 on Tuesday 27 April 1982, it will be assumed that the Chiefs of Staff have taken note of the Note and agreed its conclusions and recommendations.

Attachment:

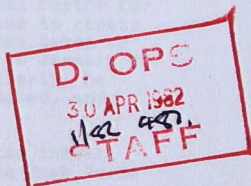
Battle Casualty Replacements (3 pages).

Note:

1. COS 23rd Mtg/82, Item 7.

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26 April 1982

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ATTACHMENT TO
COS(Misc) 162/742/1

BATTLE CASUALTY REPLACEMENTS

Note by Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel & Logistics)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Chiefs of Staff instructed (1) me to coordinate action by the Navy, Army and Air Force Departments to prepare Battle Casualty Replacement (BCR) plans. In addition, I have sought the views of the Task Force Commander.

AIM

2. The aim of this paper is to determine the number of BCR to be earmarked and how they can be made readily available to the Task Force.

THE NEED

3. In the light of the present assumptions (2) for operational planning, which includes up to a 30 day land battle, it is considered expedient for the moment to earmark BCR for a possible major landing and follow-up initial operations and, in view of the time and distance problems, to make adequate preparations for their ready availability to join units in the Falkland Islands. The need for BCR for further operations, within the assumed 6 month duration, should be reviewed in the light of developments.

THE REQUIREMENT

4. Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. The Task Force Commander agrees the MOD Navy assessment that the critical factor for fully operational ships is likely to be the time to repair damage to equipment/systems rather than the time taken to replace personnel, and that it is impractical to earmark RN replacement personnel before operations. Similarly, he agrees that the RAF requirement for BCR is limited, and personnel need not be earmarked.

5. Royal Marines and Army. The RM/Army, in an initial joint assessment which has the agreement of the Task Force Commander, consider that there might be an overall requirement, which could be met, for about 500 BCR, with personal weapons and equipment only, to join units in the Falkland Islands to replace casualties in a major landing and follow-up operation, allocated as follows:

Notes:

1. COS 23rd Meeting/82, Item 7.
2. 2038/1/1 dated 22 April 1982.

a. Combat Arms (Total: 450)

- (1) RM as individual BCR - 15 Officers
 - 120 GD Ranks
 - 36 Specialist Ranks
 (Incl HW and Sigs)
- 171

(2) Army.

- (a) As formed units - 2 Inf Coy
 - 1 CVR(T) Crew
- (b) As individual BCR - RA - 50
 RE - 50

The Task Force Commander recommends that one third of these 450 combat arms BCR should be available in the area of the Falkland Islands to join units between D+3 and D+10 (D day is major landing) and has asked for the 171 RM BCR. The remainder should stay in UK, to be called forward if required.

b. RM/Army Supporting and Logistic Personnel. About 50 RM/Army supporting and logistic personnel BCR could also be provided, but are unlikely to be needed in the same timeframe and should be held in UK until required.

6. Availability. The Task Force Commander agrees the provisional plan to fly the 171 RM combat arms BCR (currently at 72 hours NTM) to Ascension Island on 11 May and to use RFA SIR BEDIVERE, already under orders to sail from Southampton on 29 April, ETA Ascension Island 11/12 May, ETA Falkland Islands about 24 May. Army combat arms BCR (currently at 7 days NTM), together with RM/Army supporting and logistic BCR, if required, would be flown to Ascension Island to - 279 connect with suitable shipping which has still to be identified.

CONCLUSIONS

7. It is concluded that:

- a. 171 RM combat arms BCR should be earmarked, put at suitable readiness and then flown to Ascension Island on 11 May to connect with RFA SIR BEDIVERE for passage to the Falkland Islands.
- b. Army combat arms BCR, together with RM/Army supporting and logistic BCR, should be earmarked but held in UK until needed. If required, they should be flown to Ascension Island for movement by sea to the Falkland Islands in shipping, which still needs to be identified.

- c. No Royal Navy and Royal Air Force BCR need be earmarked at this stage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7. It is recommended that the Chiefs of Staff:
 - a. Take note of this Note and agree its conclusions;
 - b. Invite the Navy Department to make arrangements to nominate and move 171 RM BCR;
 - c. Invite the Army Department to earmark appropriate BCR;
 - d. Instruct ACDS(Ops) to coordinate a contingency movement plan for the Army BCR.