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OPERATION CORPORATE - REQUISITION OF SHIPPING

Reference:

A. MO 5/21 dated 30 April 1982.

1. In accordance with Reference A, a draft paper on shipping for 5 Bde is attached.

2. Branch level comments are required ASAP.

302345A Apr

J K PITT  
Col  
DD DOMS

*Cleared*

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2 - 11/11 1982

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DRAFT

OPERATION CORPORATE - REQUISITION OF SHIPPING FOR 5 BDE

BACKGROUND

1. The Secretary of State has called for a further examination of shipping required to deploy 5 Bde reinforcements to TF 317 (1). It has been agreed that reinforcements should arrive in theatre by 28 May (2).

ORBAT

- 2. The ORBAT of 5 Bde has been reduced from a normal strength of 5100 to a "slimline" reinforcement formation comprising:
  - a. 2898 personnel.
  - b. 2304 tons of ammunition and freight.
  - c. 110 vehs and 79 tris.
  - d. 10 x Puma SH and 9 x Lt Hel.

SHIPPING REQUIREMENT

3. DOMS have assessed that the "slimline" 5 Bde could be carried in QE 2 and two Roll on Roll off ferries (BALTIC FERRY and NORDIC FERRY) which could be requisitioned before 4 May, fitted out to sail by the 12 May and arrive by 28 May. This option hinges on the requisition of QE 2 which would carry the vast majority of embarked troops (2600). Whilst no difficulties are envisaged obtaining the two ferries which will now be taken up on 1 May, it is understood that there may be ministerial reservations on the requisition of QE 2.

ALTERNATIVE SHIPPING

4. Department of Trade have investigated the availability of alternative UK flag shipping and have concluded that no single

- (1) MO 5/21 dated 30 Apr 82.
- (2) COS 37th Meeting/82

SECRET

ship or practical grouping of ships could be made available within the operational timescale.

5. An urgent examination of suitable foreign flag vessels (including US) is in hand but is unlikely to be concluded before 011800A. This study can only reveal a possible short list of vessels which will then have to be subjected to a technical investigation of operating capabilities in consultation with owners. Initial indications concerning the use of foreign shipping are:

a. Diplomatic clearance will be required at the highest ministerial level before any official approach could be made.

b. A transfer of flag will have to be considered.

c. The chances of voluntary charter are very limited and even if shipping is readily available in European waters, time consuming contract negotiations would be entailed before fitting out could be started.

6. There are no suitable HM ships currently available for this task.

#### CONCLUSION

7. Based on currently available information, no suitable alternative UK flag shipping is available to replace QE 2 for the deployment of 5 Bde. The likelihood of obtaining foreign flag alternatives is very remote.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

8. It is recommended that QE 2 is requisitioned on 4 May.



DOMS 11

ACDS (Ops)

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VCDS/P&amp;L

D Ops (ROW)

Navy Ops

CGRM

Army Ops

AF Ops

DNOT(T)

DOT (SP)

BACKGROUND

1. The decision to move forward 5 Bde will involve transportation of the following:
  - a. 3944 men with weapons including 500 3rd line support.
  - b. 1067 tons ammunition.
  - c. 35 days supplies freight - 1129 tons.
  - d. Vehicles: 137 Landrovers.  
80 4 ton equivalent.  
61 plant equipment.  
179 trailers.
2. The above figures assume the role of the Brigade to act as a garrison force on completion of the re-capture of: all a part of the Falkland Islands. Should the role be one of initial assault an increase in the scaling of ammunition may well be required, especially for gun and mortar ammunition.
3. The lift of 5 Bde for use in the assault role would necessitate departure from the UK by D - 22 (dependant upon CINCFLEET landing plan) and require the provision of helicopter decks in the vessels concerned.

AIM

4. To investigate the options available to the MOD in the selection of vessels to be taken up from trade to move 5 Bde

PERSONNEL

5. The number of 4000 troops requires the use of further large troopships. The available shipping is noted at Annex A. It will be seen that the passenger requirement can be met by using QE2, and either Sea Princess or Rangatira with a small shortfall which Army Ops do not consider significant at this stage.

CONCLUSION

6. There is no possibility of 5 Bde leaving the UK by 5 May. However at this stage it would appear that it should be possible for 5 Bde to be deployed to the FI area by 5 June. If required some elements could arrive earlier.

*Sub Heal*  
C W C HEAL  
Ep. Capt  
D D DOMS

D O P U

20 APR 1982

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STAFF

Annex A: Shipping Availability

SHIPPING AVAILABILITY **SECRET**

ANNEX A to DOWS 11

<u>SHIP</u>	<u>CAPACITY</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY</u>	<u>EARLIEST ARRIVAL PT</u>	<u>FITTING OUT REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
(1) QE2 (Cunard)	2500 pax	Returns Southampton earliest sailing 4 May Next availability 8 May Next sailing 15 May Next sailing 20 May	24 May	i RAS ii Hel (3 days) iii Comms	Assuming crew reduced to 500
(2) RANGATIRA	1000 Pax	Earliest (at Falmouth) 13 May	5 Jun	i RAS ii Hel iii Comms	Subject to satisfactory survey
(3) SEA PRINCESS	1000 pax	Earliest (Southampton) 13 May	5 Jun	i RaS ii Hel iii Comms	Now in dry dock therefore assume no untoward delay
(4) BALTIC FERRY NORDIC FERRY	300 pax All vehicles majority if Not all ammunition and freight	Within 48 hours	(23 days passage)	i RAS ii Hel iii Comms	
(5) MV LAERTES	4000 tons + freight/WMR	Within 7 days	(23 days passage)	i RAS ii Comms	Only required if freight Shut out from BALTIC/NORDIC FERRY

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OP C/ARMY OPS/105

ACDS(Ops) —  
ACNS(O)  
ACAS(Ops)

Copy to:

AUS(D Staff)  
COS/CGRM  
DASD

5 INFANTRY BRIGADE

1. Attached is a refined version of the 'slimline' 5 Inf Bde as discussed at 37/82 COS Meeting.
2. DASD has suggested that CINCFLEET should be given an opportunity to comment although there is little scope for a change in the GREAT. It is likely that the COS will wish to discuss the subject of 5 Inf Bde and therefore ACDS(Ops) is requested to seek CINCFLEET's views and be prepared to raise the subject of 5 Inf Bde under 'Any other Business' at tomorrow's COS Meeting.
3. It would perhaps be appropriate for DOE to meet in the near future to discuss the provision of a 2 Star Command Group, which could be flown to Ascension Island and join HMS Intrepid.

30 Apr 82

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten initials]*

D. OPS  
21 APR 1982  
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## 5 INF BDE SLIMLINE STAFF TABLE

SERIAL	UNIT	PERS	AMMO TONNES (5xDAER)	FREIGHT (INCL 30 DAY RATS)	L/R	4 OR 10 TON	TLRS	REMARKS
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
1	5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	100			5		9	2 x TACP incl
2	97 Fd Bty	115			4		4	Incls small Tac RHQ 6 x Lt Gun SNOWCATS tow guns ?
3	Tp 43 AD Bty (BLOWPIPE)	27						8 x BLOWPIPE
4	36 Engr Regt (-) Pd Sqn Fd Sp Sqn	350			3	1 x 10 t 3 x 4 t 12 x Plant	1 x 4 1/2 roller 4 2 x gen	
5	2 SC	600			7		10	
6	1 WG	600			7		10	
7	1/7 GR	550			7		10	
8	656 Sqn AAC (-)	70			2		2	3 x Sc 6 x Gz



(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
9	407 Tpt Tp	47			20x SNOW- CAT	3 x EAGER BEAVER		
10	16 Fd Amb	150			4		1xGen 5	
11	81 Ord Coy (-)	50			2	3 2xEAGERBEAVER		
12	10 Fd Wksp	40			4	6	6 1xKVA	
13	AMG	30						
14	Pro Det	8						
15	SH Det RAF	138			3 2 SNOW CAT	1	10	10 x PUMA ac
16	Total (Bde)	2871	188	485 Rats	48	1 x 10 t 13 x 4 t 12 x Plant 5 x EAGER BEAVER	70 1x4+ rollers 4xguns	
17	WMR (incl 25xDAER at Limited War Rates)		862	226.48 Pol 21.65 Misc				Poss addl require- ment for 370 t packing CIVGAS and DIEGO
18	Total Tonnages							

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