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HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE

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PSO/CDS

HONOURS AND AWARDS - FALKLAND ISLANDS

OPERATIONS

Reference A: 2038/1 dated 6 May 82.

1. I attach a draft Chiefs of Staff paper for agreement of CDS and issue by SECCOS.

... 2. I also attach a suggested draft letter from CDS to SofS.

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

DATE 7-5-82 COMMS 2

J.M. PALMER
Major General
Defence Services Secretary
Ext: 6186 MB
7th May 1982

HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE

D R A F T

Secretary of State

HONOURS AND AWARDS - OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Reference A: COS/

1. The Chiefs of Staff have endorsed the recommendations set out in the attached COS paper to seek prompt authorisation for the grant of operational gallantry and other associated awards, in recognition of service in the South Atlantic operations. I should be grateful for your concurrence with these recommendations.
2. The current procedure for processing these awards and, in particular, for obtaining the initial authorisation, appears cumbersome, slow and outdated in the light of present circumstances and I feel an approach by you to elicit the support of the Prime Minister would help to ensure that there is no unreasonable delay by the HD Committee in the acceptance of, and agreement to, our lists of recommendations. You will note that the Chairman of the Honours and Decorations Committee is Sir Robert Armstrong.
3. I feel that it is highly desirable that the first list of awards, covering the invasion of the Falkland Islands and the recapture of South Georgia, should be announced before publication of the Birthday Honours List on the 12th June. This is possible but would certainly need the Prime Minister's personal direction to the HD Committee.

CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE

DRAFT

COS/

Chief of the Defence Staff
Chief of the Naval Staff
Chief of the General Staff
Chief of the Air Staff

Copy to: 2nd PUS
VCDS (P&L)

HONOURS AND AWARDS

OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

BACKGROUND

1. Citations for gallantry awards relating to operations in the South Atlantic are now being received in the Ministry of Defence and the first batch is due to be considered by the Naval Operational Honours Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief of Naval Personnel and 2nd Sea Lord, with tri-Service representation, on 12 May 1982. It has been agreed that all such awards should be co-ordinated by the Naval Department.
2. Other than obtaining the support of the MOD Services Honours Committee (MODSHC), under the chairmanship of 2nd PUS, these citations cannot be further processed until the Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals (HD Committee) has approved in principle the grant of gallantry awards for current operations. The Secretary of the Cabinet is the Chairman of this Committee, with PUS and Defence Services Secretary representing the MOD.
3. An initial approach by the Defence Services Secretary to the Secretary of the HD Committee elicited an alleged requirement to

delineate and declare an operational area. The impression was gained that beaurocratic and possibly lengthy procedural negotiations are likely to precede the grant of any awards.

4. The initiative lies with the MOD and the purpose of this paper is to seek the endorsement of the Chiefs of Staff and subsequently the Secretary of State to measures designed to speed up this progress.

JUSTIFICATION

5. There are precedents for such measures. The correspondence on the campaign in South Arabia and in the Radfan, for example, although voluminous and involved, clearly shows that existing rules were adapted to meet the circumstances; those serving "up country" were eligible for military gallantry awards "in recognition of the fact that they may be involved in military action against an organised enemy" (HD 6968 dated 4 Aug 67). Under the same reference, the HD Committee agreed to extend eligibility on the grounds that "the present state of terrorist activities in Aden State is such that it is no longer logically equitable to recognise acts of gallantry and distinguished service only by non-operational awards".

6. In Malaya and Borneo, gallantry awards were granted during the periods for which a State of Emergency had been declared by the Government. However, political considerations have precluded such a declaration in Northern Ireland. After lengthy negotiation, authority was eventually and promptly given for the grant of operational gallantry awards immediately following the personal intervention of the then Prime Minister.

7. It is submitted that the circumstances in the South Atlantic

present ample justification for the prompt granting of operational gallantry awards. HM Forces have been engaged since 1 April 1982 under fire in warlike operations for which the grant of non-operational awards would be clearly inappropriate.

PROCEDURES

8. Dependent on the predicted duration of the operations, the HD Committee may either reserve its right to examine and confirm each recommendation individually, or may delegate a scale of awards to the MOD to authorise and publish in periodic lists. The latter is the current procedure for Northern Ireland. All recommendations, however processed, require the formal approval of Her Majesty The Queen before publication. Her Private Secretary is a member of the HD Committee.

9. A delegated scale of awards is at first sight attractive but the initial negotiations for an appropriate scale may take time. Indeed, uncertainty about the duration of operations may make the HD Committee reluctant to delegate at all. Even if the delegation was granted, there could be a requirement to publish lists of awards at quarterly intervals, whereas individually approved awards are published as soon as agreed.

10. There may well be advantages therefore in following the normal procedure for submitting recommendations through the MODSHC to the HD Committee at least initially, keeping open the option of seeking a delegated scale in the longer term. It would be highly desirable for the first batch of awards for service during the invasion of the Falkland Islands and the retaking of South Georgia to be processed

and published before the Birthday Honours List in June. To achieve this, an approach may well be needed from the Secretary of State direct to the Prime Minister.

ASSOCIATED AWARDS

11. It is submitted that justification must now also exist for the award of a special campaign medal, or alternatively the General Service Medal with Clasp, to all those serving in the area of operations. A special allocation of meritorious service awards, additional to the half yearly Honours List, might also be considered for those in support of, but not directly involved in, operations. This list might well include civilians. These associated awards merit further study which is less urgent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. It is recommended that:

- a. The Secretary of State and the Chiefs of Staff strongly endorse the view that citations for such awards be processed expeditiously and that every attempt be made to avoid procedural delays.
- b. The Defence Services Secretary, in consultation with 2nd PUS as Chairman of the MODSHC, be invited to seek early authority for the introduction of operational gallantry awards for service in the South Atlantic from 1st April 1982, using whatever procedure is likely to achieve the earliest approval and publication of awards.
- c. If, after consideration, the issue of a delegated scale of awards is not used for the initial citations, and if current operations are prolonged, the HD Committee be invited to adopt

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such procedure.

d. The MODSHC be invited to consider the type of campaign medal most appropriate to the situation and also to prepare a case for special recognition for meritorious service in support of the operations.

e. Head of DS 15, in conjunction with SECCOS, be invited to draft conditions for the award of a special campaign or General Service Medal with Clasp and to delineate an appropriate qualifying operational area.

13. The Chiefs of Staff are invited to endorse these recommendations and to direct, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State, that the necessary action to be put in hand with all possible speed.

14. Unless I hear to the contrary by telephone (Ext) by noon on May 1982 I shall assume that you are content with these recommendations.

Secretary
Chiefs of Staff Committee