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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1.
Tuesday, 21st January 1975.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of The QUEEN'S Gallantry Medal for service in Cyprus in July 1974:

PO24406F Corporal James William HALL, Royal Marines.

40 Commando R.M., of which Corporal Hall was a member, was deployed to Cyprus during the night of 20th-21st July in order to defend part of the Sovereign Base area some five miles north of R.A.F. Akrotiri. All ranks were ordered to avoid confrontation with the Turkish and Greek Cypriot Forces but some bands of Greek Cypriot Guerillas, armed with automatic weapons, were taking independent action, not only against Turkish Cypriots but also against Greek Cypriots belonging to other factions.

The Section commanded by Corporal Hall came under fire and one Marine was wounded. Corporal Hall stood up and faced the guerillas, at great personal risk, and warned them to stop firing. He ordered his Section to stand up to indicate that they were not prepared to return the fire. Corporal Hall had informed the guerillas that his troops were English, but they would not allow him to render first aid to the wounded Marine nor to radio for assistance. They withdrew, however, after removing the Marines' weapons and equipment.

By his actions throughout this incident Corporal Hall acted in accordance with the highest traditions of the Service. He showed great personal courage in standing up in full view of the armed guerillas and his leadership was an inspiration to his Section. His action and example helped to defuse a very tense situation and probably pre-empted many other incidents of a similar nature.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct to the undermentioned for service in Cyprus in July 1974.

Lieutenant Commander Peter Gordon LANG, Royal Navy.
Lieutenant Robert Hugh KERR, Royal Navy.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air to the undermentioned for service in Cyprus in July 1974.

Lieutenant Ian McKECHNIE, Royal Navy.

ARMY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
21st January 1975.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of The Queen's Gallantry Medal for service in Cyprus to the undermentioned:

Captain Simon John MacMillan BARNETSON (472485), The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

On 20th July 1974 it became necessary to evacuate Service families from Limassol due to the worsening situation in the town. By mid morning there was heavy fighting in Limassol between the Greek Cypriot National Guard and the Turkish Cypriots and plans were made to effect a temporary ceasefire so that Service families could be withdrawn during the lull in fighting.

Captain Barnetson was ordered to escort an officer into the Turkish Cypriot Quarter of Limassol so that he could negotiate with the local commander. On the outskirts of the town Barnetson and the officer agreed to drive into the town without their arms. Unarmed and with complete disregard of personal safety, Captain Barnetson pressed on into the Turkish Cypriot quarter where fighting was raging. Their vehicle was ambushed and a burst of automatic fire held the radiator. Undeterred by the obvious danger and with great coolness and presence of mind, Captain Barnetson delivered his charge and successful negotiations were completed with the local Turkish Cypriot Commander.

After hurriedly getting a new vehicle once again Barnetson escorted the officer into the outskirts of Limassol to co-ordinate ceasefire negotiations with the local Commander.

Throughout his escort task Captain Barnetson displayed exceptional fearlessness in the face of danger and by his