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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

Ministry of Defence,  
 Whitehall, London S.W.1.

4th June 1982

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following appointments to the Distinguished Service Order and the award of the Distinguished Service Cross for operations in the South Atlantic during the repossession of South Georgia.

*Distinguished Service Order*

Captain Brian Gilmore YOUNG, Royal Navy

Captain Young, H.M.S. *Antrim*, was in overall command of the forces assigned to repossess South Georgia. Although weather conditions were extremely hostile, reconnaissance parties were landed at several points on the island and using the information obtained by these units the main assault on the Argentine positions was planned. On 25th April 1982 the landings commenced at Grytviken, preceded by an accurate and effective naval bombardment. An Argentine submarine, the *Santa Fe*, which posed a major threat to the British forces, was successfully attacked and disabled. The Argentine garrison at Grytviken was quickly forced to surrender and on the following day the last Argentine troops, positioned at Leith, also capitulated and the island was restored to British administration without any casualties to our forces and only one on the part of the Argentines.

Captain Young demonstrated throughout the highest standard of leadership, with use of bold initiative and cool appraisal of the situation. He deployed the sea, land and air units under his command to maximum advantage, often in the face of appalling weather conditions and bad visibility. The importance of this operation to the overall strategy of re-establishing British administration in the Falkland Islands and its dependencies cannot be over-stated nor can Captain Young's personal contribution to its success.

Lieutenant Commander Ian STANLEY, Royal Navy.

On 22nd April, one of the reconnaissance parties, inserted prior to the main landing on South Georgia, encountered appalling weather conditions whilst positioned in the area of the Fortuna Glacier and their situation became untenable. Consequently it was decided to withdraw the unit and two helicopters were despatched to evacuate them. However the weather was so bad that both helicopters crash landed. Nonetheless, undeterred by the previous unsuccessful attempts, Lieutenant Commander Stanley, the Flight Commander of H.M.S. *Antrim* flew seven sorties in the course of two days to rescue both the men of the reconnaissance party and the crews of the crashed helicopters. To achieve this he had to fly his helicopter to an area 1,800 feet above ground level in snow storms and gale force winds, a feat demanding the highest degree of airmanship, courage and determination.

As well as conducting this rescue, H.M.S. *Antrim's* Flight also contributed, to a marked degree, to the successful attack and disablement of the Argentine submarine *Santa Fe*. During these operations Lieutenant Commander Stanley displayed gallantry and devotion to duty in the finest traditions of the Service.

*Distinguished Service Cross*

Lieutenant Commander John Anthony ELLERBECK, Royal Navy.

During the operations prior to, and including, the repossession of South Georgia, Lieutenant Commander Ellerbeck as Flight Commander of H.M.S. *Endurance* led his flight with great courage, outstanding devotion to duty and conspicuous success. He flew several reconnaissance missions and transported troops for the landing on the island. He also took part in the successful attack on the Argentine submarine *Santa Fe* which resulted in its disablement. Many of these sorties were carried out in extreme weather conditions of gale force winds and poor visibility. In spite of these difficulties Lieutenant Commander Ellerbeck flew with great skill and when, on occasion, under enemy fire, he displayed consummate courage.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the publication of the names of those Mentioned in Despatches for their bravery, skill and devotion to duty in operations in the South Atlantic during the repossession of South Georgia.

*Mention in Despatches*

Lieutenant Commander William Edgar HURST, Royal Navy.

Lieutenant Christopher John PARRY, Royal Navy.

Lieutenant David Andrew Hester WELLS, Royal Navy.

Sub Lieutenant Stewart Greig COOPER, Royal Navy.

Petty Officer Aircrewman David Brian FITZGERALD D088074Y.

Petty Officer (Radar) Jack PEARSON D095528G.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal for operations in the South Atlantic during the defence of South Georgia.

*Distinguished Service Cross*

Acting Lieutenant Keith Paul MILLS, Royal Marines.

Lieutenant Mills was the Commanding Officer of a 22-man Royal Marines contingent despatched to South Georgia on 31st March 1982 to monitor the activities of a group of Argentines illegally landed on the island and to protect a British Antarctic Survey Team based there. On 3rd April 1982 a major Argentine assault began on the island and, following his unsuccessful attempts to forestall the attack by negotiation, Lieutenant Mills conducted a valiant defence in the face of overwhelming odds. In spite of the fact that his unit was impossibly outnumbered, exten-

sive damage was inflicted on the Argentine corvette *Guerrico*, one helicopter was shot down and another damaged. Only when the detachment was completely surrounded, and it was obvious that further resistance would serve no purpose, did he order a ceasefire, placing himself at great personal risk to convey this fact to the invading forces. Lieutenant Mill's resolute leadership during this action reflected the finest traditions of the Corps.

*Distinguished Service Medal*

Sergeant Peter James LEACH, Royal Marines P031491S.

Sergeant Leach was responsible for establishing Observation Posts at Leith, South Georgia to monitor the activities of an Argentine party illegally landed on the island. When it became clear that a full scale Argentine assault was about to begin, on the night of 2/3 April 1982, the decision was taken to recover the men to the main base at Grytviken. Using Gemini inflatable boats Sergeant Leach and his men moved across open seas, although they knew that Argentine warships were nearby. However, they successfully reached the base and whilst the commanding officer conducted initial negotiations with the Argentines, Sergeant Leach acted quickly to consolidate defensive positions. When the attack eventually came he displayed sound judgement, leadership and great discipline although the detachment was heavily outnumbered by the invading forces.

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