

Lieutenant Richard HUTCHINGS, Royal Marines.

Lieutenant Hutchings, 846 Naval Air Squadron made an important contribution to the planning and conduct of operations by the use of his skills as a Combat Survival Instructor. He completed eight operational missions with dogged determination and courage, demonstrating great resilience under trying circumstances.

The personal courage over a prolonged period shown by Lieutenant Hutchings was of the highest order.

Lieutenant Nigel John NORTH, Royal Navy.

Between 1st and 19th May 1982, 846 Naval Air Squadron carried out 26 operational night sorties to insert, re-supply and extract reconnaissance patrols throughout East and West Falkland Islands. The Squadron also participated in the attack on Pebble Island.

In preparation for these tasks Lieutenant North was responsible for working up selected crews, at short notice, in the use of new tactics, techniques and equipment for this purpose. He then led the formation in the first mission and eventually completed eight such missions, including the Pebble Island operation. These required great skill, flying at night at low level above difficult terrain, often in appalling weather and visibility conditions. Lieutenant North displayed exceptional qualities of professionalism, courage and leadership and made an outstanding contribution to the successful execution of the tasks.

Lieutenant Stephen Robert THOMAS, Royal Navy.

Lieutenant Thomas, 801 Naval Air Squadron, a first tour pilot, flew 50 combat sorties and was involved in four separate actions against the Argentine Air Force. In each of these he acquitted himself exceptionally well showing disregard for his own safety. During these actions, one aircraft was destroyed by Lieutenant Thomas. On one occasion he and his partner were attacked by three Mirages firing missiles, but they turned the tables by shooting down two and damaging the third. On a second occasion, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and communications lost, despite which he recovered safely to the ship. In two of the actions he was left with barely sufficient fuel but returned safely to the ship 150 miles away with professional skill and calmness. In each of the actions his excellent radar handling and teamwork were decisive factors. This young aviator displayed enormous courage, determination, good judgement and aggression in the face of the enemy.

Sub Lieutenant Peter Thomas MORGAN, Royal Navy.

On 21st May 1982 Sub Lieutenant Morgan was Officer of the Watch in HMS ARGONAUT when the ship came under intense air attack. Bomb damage put both engines out of action and jammed the rudders when the ship was at full ahead speed, going straight towards and very close to the coastline. Sub Lieutenant Morgan almost certainly saved the ship from going aground by racing to the fore-castle with two others to let go an anchor and stop her.

In his capacity as Officer-in-Charge of the Ships Diving Team he led his men on a two day operation to survey and make temporary repairs to bomb damage below the waterline. On two occasions he dived into the flooded forward magazine, in the knowledge that in addition to the hazards posed by twisted and jagged metal, there was an unexploded bomb in the compartment amongst damaged ordnance.

Throughout this dangerous and hectic period Sub Lieutenant Morgan displayed qualities of cool and quick thinking, as well as courage and stamina, in carrying out all his duties.

Fleet Chief Petty Officer (Diver) Michael George FELLOWS, B.E.M. J944234N.

On 21st May 1982 FCPO(D) Fellows, Fleet Clearance Diving Team 1, was tasked to investigate an unexploded 1,000 lb bomb on HMS ANTRIM. It proved impossible to determine whether the bomb was armed and the decision was taken to lift it from its position close to the Sealug missile magazine to the Flight Deck where it could be lowered into the water.

This operation was hampered by further air attacks during which the team had to stay close to the bomb to prevent it from being jarred. Smoke from burning materials forced them to wear breathing apparatus and to carry out fire fighting tasks to keep heat away. However, after a difficult ten hour operation they succeeded in disposing of the bomb and damaged pyrotechnics from the magazine. This was the first unexploded bomb dealt with during the Falklands conflict and, despite the absence of precedent, FCPO(D) Fellows led his team with devotion to duty of the highest order and complete disregard for personal safety. The conspicuous bravery shown by the team was a major factor in safeguarding the ship and her crew.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Military Cross to the undermentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished service during the operations in the South Atlantic:

Military Cross

Major Charles Peter CAMERON, Royal Marines

Major Cameron is the Commanding Officer of 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron. From the first day of operations his Squadron of Gazelle and Scout helicopters rendered outstanding service in support of the Brigade, often flying in appalling weather conditions by day and night, having to evade Argentine fighters and anti-aircraft fire.

During these operations three helicopters were shot down with the loss of four lives. Nonetheless, the Squadron continued to provide extremely valuable support to the ground forces, ferrying urgently needed ammunition and evacuating wounded during the battle for Darwin and Goose Green amongst other actions.

Throughout this most demanding period, Major Cameron led his Squadron with humour and compassion both on the ground and in the air. His fine example of courage and determination, in the face of severe losses, was an inspiration to all and his leadership ensured that no call for help went unanswered.

Captain Peter Murray BABBINGTON, Royal Marines

On the night of 11th/12th June 1982, on the Island of East Falkland, 42 Command Royal Marines began a silent night attack against strongly held enemy positions on the Mount Harriet feature, five kilometres to the west of Port Stanley.

Initially, in getting onto and amongst the rocky crags of Mount Harriet, undetected by the enemy, they achieved brilliant surprise. The enemy, caught off balance, reacted fiercely. Captain Babbington was commanding the leading Company as the fighting erupted.

In the midst of a ferocious fire fight, Captain Babbington calmly directed his men and used his tactical and support weapons to maximum devastating effect. His personal courage and cool professionalism were an inspiring example and a crucial factor in defeating the enemy.

Lieutenant Clive Idris DYTOR, Royal Marines

On the night of 11th/12th June 1982, on the Island of East Falkland, 45 Commando Royal Marines, launched a silent night attack against strongly held enemy positions on the craggy hill feature of Two Sisters, ten kilometres to the West of Port Stanley.

Initially, in getting onto Two Sisters undetected, they achieved brilliant surprise. When discovered by the enemy a fierce fight ensued. At the height of the fighting Lieutenant Dytor and his Troop came under a hail of enemy fire. In an act of inspiring leadership, he fought his Troop forward and personally led the assault on a strong enemy machine gun position. His was the culminating feat of a highly successful action.

Lieutenant Christopher FOX, Royal Marines

During the night 5th/6th June 1982, on the Island of East Falkland, Lieutenant Fox led a reconnaissance patrol close to enemy positions on the Two Sisters feature ten kilometers to the West of Port Stanley.

Lieutenant Fox established a covert post from which he was able to control accurate fire against the enemy even though attacked by greatly superior forces. Although wounded, he finally withdrew his patrol, intact, to his unit lines.

The intelligence gained by Lieutenant Fox was vital to the planning of the subsequently successful attack by 45 Commando Royal Marines on the Two Sisters feature.

Lieutenant David James STEWART, Royal Marines

Early in the morning of the 9th June Lieutenant Stewart, 45 Commando led a troop strength fighting patrol to the Two Sisters feature in East Falklands with a mission to harass the enemy and cause him casualties. In bright moonlight and across 1000 metres of open ground Lieutenant Stewart led his patrol undetected into the enemy position. Two enemy sentries were killed and for the next 30 minutes a fierce fire fight ensued.

The enemy on the high ground and in position of their choosing were engaged with troop weapons and artillery with great skill, vigour and courage. The returning fire came from several different positions including 3 machine gun posts and artillery. During the withdrawal, Lieutenant Stewart himself gave covering fire to assist his men move across the open ground. There is no doubt that the success of this patrol which killed 7 enemy and sustained no casualties was largely due to the meticulous planning, the exhaustive rehearsals and the outstanding leadership and courage shown by Lieutenant Stewart. The effect on the enemy was shattering and possibly saved many lives of men in his company which attacked the position two days later.