

*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.

LONDON

Printed and published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE; 1982