

C.S.

Volunteers  
 Medals etc

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No. 657

DEF/FID/1#43

1920

S 98 No 69

SUBJECT.

1920

10 June

Previous Paper.

130/20

Claims of Balkan Islands Volunteers in respect of War Medals to be finally decided at a later date.

MINUTES.

S.B.

Perhaps the information contained in the attached despatch might be conveyed to members of force by publication at the end of the year.

(2)

Yrs, but when our accumulation of work is finished - not before.

~~WMS~~  
3.9.10

I have taken a note of this correspondence & will take up the matter when in England.

SM  
12 April 1920

Despatch as in draft attached signed also pva.

SM  
12 April 1920

Subsequent Paper.

164/25

Reference to previous correspondence:-

Secretary of State's despatch No.138 of 23rd Dec.1919.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 69.

Downing Street,

11th June, 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the papers noted below on the subject of the claim to the award of a medal by the Falkland Islands Volunteers.

I have etc.,

(Sgd.) Milner.

The Officer Administering

the Government of the Falkland Islands.

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Date.

Description.

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1920.

17th April

Memorandum by Sir Douglas Young.

29th "

To War Office.

3rd June

From " " "



Enclosure to despatch No. 69 of 11th June, 1920.

COPY.

MEMORANDUM BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR  
THE WARD OF WAR MEDALS TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEERS.

On the outbreak of War the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force was mobilized by order of the Governor and guards established over the Government ~~telegraph~~ Wireless Station and outposts on the heights and elsewhere. In November 1914 a 12 lb. Q.F. gun was landed from His Majesty's Ship Glasgow, and posted on Mount William. After the arrival of H.M.S. Canopus further guns were mounted on shore, but were manned by the Navy until after the battle on the 8th December, 1914.

During the earlier months of the War an attack on the Falkland Islands seemed extremely probable, at least to the inhabitants, and it is submitted that the claim of the Falkland Island Volunteers to recognition stands on a very different footing to that of Volunteer Forces of less remote Colonies protected by the Navy. The Governor and his Council decided in October 1914, that they would resist any attempt to land parties from a single cruiser, though in event of an attack by a squadron they would be obliged to abandon Stanley and retire inland. Before leaving for Ceylon Vice Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock wrote to the Governor "I shall not fail to let them know at home officially what I have seen and think of your gallant precautions and plans for upholding our honour; would that all dependencies were the same".

On 8th December 1914, the smoke of Admiral Von Spee's squadron was first sighted by outposts of Falkland Islands Volunteers, and valuable information of the movement of the enemy's ships was reported by the

outpost

outpost on Sappers Hill.

The enemy ships approached to within about two miles of the Colonial Government Wireless Telegraph Station, with their guns trained on the Station and the Town of Stanley. The Falkland Islands Volunteers were at the time entrenched at the Station to resist the landing of an armed force from the ships. The fire from H.M. Canopus, over the direction in which the Volunteers were entrenched, caused the enemy ships to manoeuvre and subsequently to move off from the shore, when His Majesty's Ships under the command of Vice Admiral Sturdee proceeded out of Port William and gave chase and battle.

Sir Doveton Sturdee wrote to the Governor after after the battle "we wish to convey our thanks for the early approach of the enemy due to the good lookout kept at Sapper's Hill;" and the Admiral further informed the Governor personally that the report from this outpost had a very important influence on the subsequent engagement.

It is understood that the arrangements made for indirect fire from H.M.S. Canopus involved the use of the Falkland Islands Volunteers.

On all these grounds there appears to be sufficient reason for treating the Falkland Islands Volunteers as an exception to the rule against granting the British War Medal to Volunteers who did not serve oversea.

It is further submitted that the Falkland Islands might justly be considered to come within "a theatre of military operations", and the Falkland Islands Volunteers eligible for the award of the "British War Medal" and the "Victory Medal",

(Sgd.) W. Douglas Young

Governor and Commander in Chief,

Falkland Islands.

17th April 1920.

COPY.

19749/20.

Downing Street,

29th April, 1920.

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (No. 68/121/1278) of the 13th November, 1919, stating that the personnel of the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force are ineligible for the award of the "1914-15 Star", and to transmit to you, to be laid before the Army Council, the accompanying Memorandum by Sir Douglas Young, K.C.M.G., Governor of that Colony.

2. On further review of the claims of the Force which are fully set out in the enclosed memorandum, it appears to the Secretary of State that there are strong grounds for re-opening the question. Lord Milner will <sup>be</sup> obliged if the Army Council will consider whether, as he is inclined to think, the additional information now furnished does not justify the issue of the War Medal and Victory Medal to those members of the Force who took part in the war services described by Sir D. Young.

I am etc.,

(Sgd.) J. Grindle.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,

WAR OFFICE.

(MEDAL BRANCH A.G.10.).

COPY.

68/121/1610.

War Office,  
27, Pilgrim Street,  
Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4  
3rd June, 1920.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 23504/20, dated the 22nd May, 1920, regarding the services of the Falkland Island Volunteers, and to inform you that the theatres of war for service in which the "1914-15 Star" and Victory Medals are issuable do not include the Falkland Islands.

I am to state, however, that the theatres of war for the British War Medal have not been finally decided, and that the claim the award by the Falkland Island Volunteers will not be overlooked.

I am etc.,

(Sgd.) B.B. Cubitt.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
London, S.W.1.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 53.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

19th April, 1923.

My Lord Duke,

With reference to Viscount  
Milner's despatch No. 69 of the 12th of June,  
1920, on the subject of the claim to the award  
of a medal by the Falkland Islands Volunteers,  
I have the honour to enquire whether the theatres  
of war for the British War Medal have now been  
decided.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most obedient,

humble servant,

  
J. Middleton.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE,

P.C., K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.