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14 JUL 1974

34

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20 AUG 74

14.7.74.

From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

For release : Monday, July 15

The Sultan of Oman's Air Force (SOAF) will form a new squadron on the arrival this month at Seeb of the first of eight twin-engined Britten-Norman Defenders, it was announced in Muscat today. The supply of aircraft to the new squadron, No. 5, will be completed by November.

The Defender, which are the military version of the Islander, will be adaptable in Oman to a number of roles. They will be used for passenger carrying, for freight, for reconnaissance and as air ambulances. This latter role has great importance because in addition to military calls, SOAF is very frequently asked to airlift civilian invalids from remote interior areas in the mountains to hospitals in the main population centres.

The cost of the eight new aircraft is just under £734,000.

GRA/FAK

35
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10 AUG 1974

From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

10.8.74.

Three more guerrillas have deserted the Communist side to join the Government forces in Oman. One, from a militia unit to the west of the Salalah - Thamarit (Midway) road, arrived in Salalah on July 6. The other two surrendered the next day. One is from the Communist Bin Dhaheeb unit. The third man has not been identified publicly because he fears that the Communists may try to harm his family, who have not yet reached Salalah.

OMA
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11 AUG 1974

11.8.74.

From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

Two more Communist guerrillas surrendered yesterday at Oman Government positions in Dhofar. One was a militia member from the so-called Ho Chi Min area, and the other a hardcore terrorist from the eastern sector. With five surrenders in the last five days, says a bulletin issued in Muscat, bringing the total for the first 10 days of August to nine, it is clear that the high rate of surrenders by Communists this year is continuing. During July 1974 there were 27 surrenders in contrast with July 1973 when only eight men crossed over to the Oman Government side.

GRA/FAK

OMA
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PRE
13 AUG 1974

From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

13.8.74.

Four more Communist guerrillas have surrendered to the Oman Government, according to a communique issued in Salalah. They reported to one of the irregular units, the Firqat al-Mustagala, in an area north of the Dhofar provincial capital, on Saturday.

Three of the men belong to hardcore terrorist units, and one was serving with the militia east of the Salalah-Thamarit (Midway) road. All brought arms with them. These were an AKMS rifle, two Russian-made AK 47s, an automatic rifle and a grenade.

GRA/FAK

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15 AUG 1974

From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

15.8.74.

A small group of Communist guerrillas retreated when fired on by Oman Government forces on Tuesday, July 13, east of Medinat al-Haq (White City), according to a communique issued in Muscat. This, one of the few recent contacts with the terrorists, was made in a joint patrol by regular soldiers and irregulars from the local firqat. The patrol engaged the guerrillas with small arms fire, and also called down artillery fire on to their position.

OMA
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PRE
18 AUG 1974

39

18.8.74.

From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

Two Communist guerrillas were killed and two more wounded by Omani Government forces in an action near Tawi Atair yesterday according to a military bulletin from Salalah. Tawi Atair is one of the latest centres in southern Oman in which the Government has installed a Civil Action Team to aid rehabilitation of an area formerly controlled by terrorists.

One of the wounded rebels was captured, and two AK 47 automatic rifles were taken.

The action occurred when a joint patrol of soldiers and firqat irregulars surrounded a village south south-west of Tawi Atair. As six enemy left the village they were engaged with small arms fire from the Omani forces' ambush positions.

Three more men, the bulletin adds, have realised that the Communist terror campaign cannot succeed in Dhofar, and have come over to the Government side. One reported to Salalah on August 14, another to Salalah on August 15, and the third to Government forces at Mughsayl the same day.

GRA/FAK

OMA
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19 AUG 1974


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19.8.74.

From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

Two more Communist guerrillas surrendered to Oman Government forces in Dhofar on August 17. This brought the total of guerrillas changing sides in the first 17 days of this month to 17, averaging one a day, according to an announcement in Muscat.

It is noted in the Omani capital that there is now steady attrition of the guerrilla forces cut off from their supply bases in South Yemen by the Hornbeam Line and the positions along the road from Salalah to Thamarit (Midway).



OMA
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22 AUG 1974

Michael Rice

22.8.74.

From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

Omani Government forces, in an operation in the Wadi Risham area, west of the Salalah - Thamarit (Midway) road, have carried the fight this week into more Communist guerrilla hideouts, says a Muscat bulletin. A number of contacts were made, and two guerrillas are known to have been wounded, possibly mortally.

The operation took place on the night of August 19, and continued well into August 20. From the regular forces there were elements of the Muscat Regiment, the Frontier Force and the Armoured car squadron. Guns of the Oman Artillery were in support. Irregular forces came from four different firqats. There were no casualties on the Government side.

In addition to forcing the guerrillas from hideouts they had probably considered immune from search, the operation demonstrated how the present season of monsoon rains and the heavy mist, known as khareef, has not prevented the Omani forces from maintaining their initiative. Last monsoon season only a limited number of positions were held in the mountains. This year the Sultan's Armed Forces had many more positions in the jebel and all of them have been fully operational throughout the monsoon. There has been constant patrolling and ambushing over an ever-widening area formerly dominated by the Communists.

Guerrilla activity has been very subdued over recent weeks. Almost the only action has been ineffective mortar attacks in the Sarfait (Simba) area and to the north of the

Wadi Ashawq. These attacks have all been inaccurate and have caused no Government casualties.

Indicative of Communist insecurity also is the continuing surrender of enemy personnel, particularly in the area between the Hornbeam Line and the Salalah road. Three more surrenders have taken place around Salalah in the past three days, making a total of 20 giving up between August 1 and August 19.

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26 SEP 1974

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From : The Public Relations Officer,
Department of Defence,
Sultanate of Oman.

26.9.74.

Press releases -

A prominent member of the so-called Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf (PFLOAG), Alawi Fadhil, has arrived in Oman from Aden, ~~in the Democratic Republic of the Yemen,~~ according to a military bulletin issued in Salalah. He arrived in Salalah on September 22, to declare that he now rejected the policies of the Communist terrorist organisation, and wished to establish his loyalty to the Sultan's Government.

Alawi Fadhil held important posts in the PFLOAG organisation. He was in charge of the Front's Cairo office before going to Aden. In the capital of South Yemen, where the PFLOAG guerrillas are based, he was in charge of the Front's interior information section.

The Oman bulletin adds that two more PFLOAG fighters have surrendered to Government forces in Dhofar. Both reported to Salalah, one on September 17 and the second on September 23.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE NEWS RELEASE

11.8 DEC 1974

No. 46 /74
December 16 1974

COMMANDER SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES

Brigadier Kenneth Perkins, MBE, DFC, Director of Defence Operational Plans in the Ministry of Defence, is to become Commander Sultan's Armed Forces, Oman, as a major-general, in February 1975, in succession to Major-General T M Creasey, OBE.

Brigadier Perkins (48), educated at Lewes Court School, Sussex, was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1946 after wartime service in the ranks. Qualifying as a pilot in 1952, he subsequently logged 2,000 hours of operational flying, winning the DFC in Korea and the MBE and the Selangor Distinguished Conduct Medal in Malaya. The latter award was the first to be made to a British serviceman.

He is a graduate of Camberley, the Joint Services Staff College and of the Pakistan Staff College and a former commander of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. Before coming to the Ministry of Defence in December 1973 he commanded 24th Airportable Brigade at Plymouth.

Brigadier Perkins is married and has three daughters. He has boxed and played rugger for the Army and is a competent enough painter to have had his works exhibited.

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