

## Extract from Part Five: Veterans Campaigns for Medals for Past Service

### **The Aden Campaign**

#### The Case

5.38 Three medals were instituted in the military campaigns in Aden between 1957 and 1967, although they do not cover the entire period of operations there. The Aden Veterans Association has campaigned for the Government to extend the qualifying period of either the "Arabian Peninsula" General Service Medal(GSM)/Naval General Service Medal(NGSM) or the "South Arabia" GSM to cover operational service between July 1960 and 1964 which is not currently recognised by any of the clasps to the GSM.

#### Discussion

5.39 The HD Committee paper, at the time, for the NGSM and GSM with clasp 'Arabian Peninsula' provided for the possible extension of the published end-date, subject to a case being submitted to the HD Committee.

5.40 As far as previous research could determine, no case was ever made and it had to be concluded that those in command at the time felt that the scale and scope of the border raids and terrorist attacks from dissidents in Aden did not justify the extension of the qualifying period for the medal. However, it is apparent that the situation had again deteriorated in 1964, by which time the original two medals had been replaced by the new tri-Service GSM 1962. Accordingly the 'Radfan' clasp was instituted for service in the South Arabian Federation between April and July 1964, followed shortly afterwards by the clasp 'South Arabia' which included service in Aden.

5.41 Those in command had every opportunity to reconsider the earlier medal and extend its qualifying period at that time while the events were still relatively fresh and could easily have closed the gap so that service in Aden could qualify for medals throughout the early 1960s, but they decided not to. It is not known how many served in Aden in the period 1960 to 64 but it is estimated that the extension of the GSM clasp to cover this period would cost several thousand pounds.

#### Conclusion

The HD Committee will not attempt to second guess decisions made many years ago and it is clear from the institution of the later medals that the matter was not overlooked at the time, so at this late stage there are no plans to amend the qualifying criteria for any of the medals for service in Aden.