

The Honours and Awards Committee submit that
the King be immediately invited to approve the award
of a Posthumous Victoria Cross to the late Commander
(acting Captain) Edward Stephen Fogarty Fegan, for
valour in giving his life and challenging hopeless odds
to save the Convoy of which he was in charge.

The only possible relevant case in this war
is that of the late Captain Kennedy of RAWALPINDI, who
was not awarded the Victoria Cross. A special letter on
vellum was sent to his widow. It is, however, submitted
that the two cases are by no means on all fours.

RAWALPINDI was sighted by the enemy when on patrol,
attacked and sunk after a short engagement, in which
she seems to have been fought with great courage.

JARVIS BAY deliberately made straight for an enemy
of overwhelming strength, and, though her own guns were
never within range, held the Raider's fire for nearly
an hour, and thereby saved 32 or 33 of a Convoy of 38.

R. Gleadowe

(R. GLEADOWE)
for HEAD OF COMMISSION AND WARRANT BRANCH.
14th November, 1940.

A. | The Rawalpindi whilst on patrol was surprised by a
superior enemy force which came up on her quarter
at dusk. She had not the speed to escape when she
came down. One feels sure that Captain Kennedy was
gallant to the last, but there is no evidence to show
that any action taken, or order given, by ships or Captain
was of such a gallant nature as to merit the Victoria Cr
In the case of the Jarvis Bay there is evidence from a
of ships, including that of the Commander of the Convoy, to
that Captain Fegan could have, had he wished, turned to
southward with the remainder of the Convoy in an endeavour
to escape. Had he done so the Jarvis Bay might well be
left away unscathed but at the expense of more loss
in the convoy. Rather than do this Captain Fegan turned
boldly towards the enemy, and to certain destruction,
thereby giving the Convoy greater time in which to scatter
and escape. This was a brave decision, made with
any apparent hesitation, and I think fully merits
award of the Victoria Cross. *he deserves equal credit.*

Comparisons are always odious and at first sight it is not so easy to draw a clear distinction between the action of Captain Fegen and that of Captain Kennedy. Neither in reality had any choice but to pursue the path of duty which he did. If Captain Fegen had not placed himself between the enemy and his convoy, thus allowing the latter a better chance of escape, he would have been branded as a coward and hounded out of the Service. He must often have pictured during the 14 months he was commanding the "Jervis Bay", the situation in which he finally found himself and acted in the only way possible. Similarly with Captain Kennedy. The notion of Captain Warburton Lee on the other hand I think was different as he was allowed to act on his own initiative and not on the receipt of definite orders.

Captain Fegen's action is, however, more spectacular than Captain Kennedy's and his gallantry resulted in a considerable military achievement.

To the uneducated public who are interested in naval questions it would not be so easy to contrast the two actions. This is unfortunate but I do not think it should stop us from pursuing the correct course in regard to the "Jervis Bay" and I concur in the proposal of the award of the V.C. to Captain Fegen.

It was only ten days ago I heard from Captain Kennedy's son and enclose the correspondence.

16th November, 1940.

I consider that the remark of Lord Beaverbrook at A is the correct interpretation of the difference between the case of the "Hood" and "Jervis Bay". There was inevitably to say even in the time when he has come to V.C. don't get it because the

details of this action are not known.

The standard for the V.C. is so high that it is essential that it should only be awarded when it is known that the action taken justifies its award.

I have no doubt that the award of the V.C. to Captain Fegen is justified.

It is proper to approve accordingly.


Sir
E. Grey

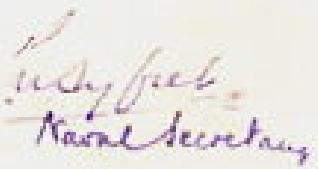
H. Lord approves.


H. Lord
15/11/100

(M. 021807 has
detached &
returned to M.)

P. 11/11/100

A. H. The King has been pleased to approve the
order award of the VICTORIA CROSS to the late Captain
E. S. F. Fegen, Royal Navy.


Naval Secretary
17. XI. 100

V.C. gazetted page 6743 Sept London Gazette 22/11/100.

for C.R.B. 25/11/100


See N.H.S. 10/11/100
Mr. Secretary of State for War