

MEDAL FILE



Mr. Martin

CEYBLAIDD,
PRINCARREG,
ILANFYTHIRN,
CARMARTHENSHIRE

31st May 1946.

The Right Honourable
Winston Spencer-Churchill,
M.P., Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Sir,

Awards for Service.

In view of the fact that awards for service, in the form of medals, etc., are about to be made, and in view of your statement in Parliament that you will be very ready to deal with questions likely to involve controversy in this matter, I put my case before you.

In September 1941 I was asked by G.H.Q. Home Forces, H.Q. Auxiliary Units, to be the Organizer and Group Leader of Civil Intelligence for the County of Carmarthen. I then undertook this work and, closely associated with Royal Signals, I continued it until August 1944, when the Organization ceased operationally. However, I have not been actually released but placed on a reserve - and so the matter stands.

The work was quite voluntary and took up a very great part of my time. It involved much travelling and for the first year I paid all expenses which were very considerable.

Then I was put on the Roll of the Home Guard, No. 202 Company, G.H.Q. Reserve, in order to be re-imburshed for my travelling expenses only from that time onwards. I have not had any discharge from this.

The G.O.C. explained to me personally the nature of the work and, in the event of German occupation of this area (at that time a very likely event), the imminent danger to my life, or worse.

I cannot in a letter state the exact nature of what was done, but it involved being alone operating in the mountains by day and by night for frequent and long periods. The work was freely done without looking for any reward, the need of the country alone being taken into account, and, in similar circumstances would willingly be done again. However, no-one has even said "Thank you" and I am not permitted to speak of it here.

I feel now that, in view of what is being done for others, some recognition might be given to me as a matter of simple equity.

My daughter, Mollie Doreen Phillips, was in it with me all the time and she did marvellous work, far beyond what a girl would normally be expected to do. Her case is far more important than mine. She not only took a large share of the work of organizing and training the personnel, but herself became a highly-skilled operator: in fact, the most efficient operator, not only in this County, but in this area, including the neighbouring Counties.

Now, after working by great physical and mental effort, alone at night on these hills, down in her hide-out - she at one station and I at another - she finds herself a subject of criticism and opprobrium, because she is locally considered to have done nothing in the War as, of necessity, her work was unknown. It was quite voluntary and unpaid.

If she could be given some form of decoration, which need not disclose the nature of her work, it would only be fair. The danger to her life was personally impressed on her by the G.O.C. at the outset, but that did not hinder her.

We would willingly attend at any Department, if indicated, to give such further information that is proper. As an indication of status I wish to say that I am a Barrister-at-law (London address, No.8. Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2.) and I was High Sheriff of this County in 1938/9. I am personally known to the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Dynevor, Llandilo, who can if necessary confirm what I have written in this paragraph. Of course, he is not acquainted with the details of our work which was secret.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

George Phillips