

THE ENIGMATIC ORDER

THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF SOUTH AFRICA: ITS ORIGINS, DEVELOPMENT, CHARACTER AND PROBLEMS¹

BY

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INTRODUCTION

The Order of the Star of South Africa is the Republic's premier order. It superseded the Star of South Africa (instituted in 1952), which was formally classed as a decoration (and awarded in one class only). For students of the South African award structure it is pivotal, in two major respects. First, it has exhibited an undeniable restlessness and instability since its inception in 1975; having experienced two major phases of reorganization and restructuring, its final form, to date, appearing in 1988. In this respect, it is clearly symptomatic of the unstable and continually fluctuating character of the South African award structure, a theme that has been explored in several published sources, written by the author of the present article.² Most importantly, the source of this instability is encapsulated in the Order; viz the departure

from sound and firmly anchored precedents, established over several centuries. Second, the Order points to the manner in which a medal pantheon forms an index of political-social-cultural development in a nation's history. For the development of the Order of the Star of South Africa has coincided with a period in which the SADF has occupied an extremely high and aggressive profile in the collective consciousness of the South African public.³ Thus, the institution of the Order of the Star of South Africa in 1975 was the fountainhead, so to speak, of a veritable plethora of either new or reconstituted awards. The year 1975 also witnessed the institution of the: *Honoris Crux Decoration - Gold (HCG)*, *Silver (HCS)* and *Decoration (HC)*; *Southern Cross Medal*; *Pro Merito Medal*; *Southern Cross Decoration (SD)*, *Pro Merito Decoration (PMD)*; *South African Defence Force Good Service Medal (Gold, Silver, Bronze - for 30, 20 and 10 years*

¹ The present article is derived from the following sources:

- (a) Monick, S. *South African military awards 1912-1987*. Johannesburg: South African National Museum of Military History, 1988, pp 43-48.
- (b) Monick, S. *South African civil awards 1910-1990*. Johannesburg: South African National Museum of Military History, 1988, pp 131-141.
- (c) Monick, S. Profile of a research project: the medal publications of the South African National Museum of Military History. *Militaria*, 21/1, pp 21-42.
- (d) Monick, S. The awards of the South African Armed Forces: an overview and analysis. *Armed Forces (SA)*, June 1988, pp 29-32; July 1988, pp 28-34; August 1988, pp 28-32.

The following article is, essentially, a consolidation of the material contained in the above sources.

² These sources are as follows:

- (i) Monick, S. Profile of a research project: the medal publications of the South African National Museum of Military History. *Militaria* 21/1, 1991, pp 21-42.
- (ii) Monick, S. The awards of the South African Armed Forces: an overview and analysis. *Armed Forces (SA)*, June 1988, pp 29-32; July 1988, pp 28-34; August 1988, pp 28-32.

³ Monick, S. The forging of a strike force. *Militaria*, 22/3, 1992, pp 20-56.

meritorious service in the Permanent Force/Citizen Force/Commandos respectively); and SADF *Champion Shot Medal*.

The continually evolving character of the Order is, to reiterate, rooted in the lack of a firm historical foundation. Thus, any discussion of the Order of the Star of South Africa must first examine the traditional fabric of orders, as it has developed in Europe since the Middle Ages. It is this fabric which has shaped the European orders (including those of Great Britain) and established consistent precedents from which the South African order has departed, to its considerable cost in terms of consistency and stability.

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORDERS

Religious origins

The origin of orders must be sought in the medieval organization of the Catholic Church, of which the monastic communities formed an integral part. The word 'order' (from the Latin 'ordo') referred in the medieval period to an association of a limited circle of persons who imposed upon themselves certain obligations, and who subjected themselves to certain rules. At the time of the Crusades, commencing in 1098 AD, the foundation of orders in the monastic system was extended to embrace religious orders of chivalry, thereby fusing the traditions of chivalry (the basis of knighthood) and Catholic Christendom. The most well known of these religious orders - the essential objects of which were to fight for the Christian faith and care for the sick - were the *Knights Templar* (founded 1118), the *Order of St John* (founded 1113) and the *Order of Teutonic Knights* (founded 1190). Reference should also be made to religious orders founded in the Iberian Peninsula, as part of the 'Reconquista' (ie the expulsion of the Moslem power from Spain between the 11th and 15th centuries). These included the *Order of Alcantara* (1156), the *Order of Calatrava* (1158), the *Order of Aviz* (1162), the *Order of Sant'Iago* (1170) and the *Order of Monteza* (1319), all of which are extant today (albeit no

longer as official state awards); as is also the case with the Order of St John and its Catholic sister order, the *Order of Malta*.

These religious orders of chivalry were confirmed by the Pope and directly subordinated to the Papacy, but otherwise acted independently under the leadership of a Grand Master, elected for life by the Knights of the Order, assisted by the College of Arms composed of the official bearers of the highest dignitaries of the order.

Subordination to the state

Whilst the orders remained directly subordinated to the Pope, they became increasingly dependent upon the State, although maintaining their religious character. Symptomatic of this process was the assumption by monarchs of the office of Grand Master, the office becoming hereditary within their own families. As these international religious orders became increasingly dynastically dependent, the concept of an order became extended to embrace the dynastic, or temporal, orders of chivalry. The dynastic, or temporal, order of chivalry was expressed in the form of Royal Knighthoods, the object of which was no longer primarily to fight the infidel but to strengthen the prestige and power of the monarchy. The kings themselves occupied the office of Grand Master, but the meetings (the 'Chapters') were still held in a special chapel of the orders in church. Similarly, these temporal orders, as in the case of their religious ancestors, generally had a patron saint and sought papal confirmation. The number of members in these temporal orders was limited, and there was only one class of membership. Admission was conditional upon noble birth, and initiation was conducted at a solemn ceremony, including a vow of fidelity and the receiving of an accolade. The members wore a habit and the insignia of the order was often a jewel with a picture of the patron saint of the order, worn on a chain around the neck. Members who enjoyed these privileges were required to lead a blameless life, to support charity by lavish almsgiving, to always bear the insignia of the order and,

above all, to constantly promote the power and prestige of the monarch; failure to comply with these obligations being punishable by fines or, if repeated, by expulsion from the order.

Originally, membership of one order excluded membership of another, at least with regard to an order against whose king (and Grand Master) another went to war. Several of these orders remain extant to this day; eg the British *Order of the Garter* (founded 1348), the Danish *Order of the Elephant* (1462) and the Swedish *Order of the Seraphim* (1748).

Democratization of orders: orders of merit

As societies became increasingly democratized (ie the power of the bourgeoisie, and later that of the proletariat, replaced that of the monarch, often through the medium of Parliamentary government), orders of merit replaced those of Royal Knighthood. Thus there arose an order awarded purely for services to the state, irrespective of social class, of which the French *Legion of Honour* (1802), with its division in 1805 into five classes, became the prototype. With the institution of this order democracy made its entry into the world of chivalry. No longer did the situation exist whereby only limited numbers of men of the most noble birth in the land could receive the monarch's favour. The order of merit became society's recognition of acknowledged worthiness of citizenship, which the head of state personifying society - be it monarch or president - could bestow upon any citizen. This process of democratization of orders assumed two forms:

* Dividing existing orders of one class into several classes; as was the case in 1808 with the Danish *Order of the Dannebrog* (1671).

* Founding new orders divided into several classes. An actual division into grades, or classes, however, already existed prior to the French Revolution, in the French *Military Order of St Louis* (1693), whose three classes were re-

ferred to as the Grand Cross, Commander and Knight. This division into classes became the pattern for these orders of merit.

Orders of merit may assume the following forms:

- (a) **Military orders of merit:** These can be either military orders, or mixed orders which have both military and civil divisions.

Purely military orders: Among those purely military orders which are still extant are the Swedish *Order of the Sword* (1522), the Dutch *Military Order of William* (1815) and the Finnish *Order of the Liberty Cross* (1918). The last named award is peculiar in so far as, in common with the German *Iron Cross* (1813) it can be awarded only in times of war, and also that it distinguishes between combatants and non-combatants. The greater number of new orders founded after World War II within the Soviet orbit of influence (commonly referred to as 'people's democracies') are solely military orders.

Mixed orders: Among the mixed orders which remain extant are the Belgian *Order of Leopold* (1832) which, in addition to a civil and military division also possesses a naval division; the Norwegian *Order of St Olaf* (1847), the British *Order of Merit* (1902) and the Czechoslovak *Order of the White Lion* (1922).

The military divisions of these mixed orders of merit share the common characteristic of the insignia of the order, irrespective of military or civil division; with the distinction that the military division is characterized by crossed swords; the *Order of the British Empire* (1917), Military Division, is distinguished by an additional stripe in the ribbon. The British *Order of the Bath* (1725) is exceptional in this respect in so far as its different classes (military and civil) possess their own distinct insignia.

- (b) **Civil orders of merit:** In those countries which have civil orders only, the civil division is often divided into several categories for each. For example, in Sweden, the *Order of the Northern Star* (1748) is awarded for the humanities and for official services; and the *Order of Vasa* (1722) for commercial services.

Several civil orders of merit are also awarded for deserving services to science and art. Special awards for services in this sphere were founded at an early point; eg the French *Palms in Gold and Silver* (1808), which was extended in 1945 into an order in three classes. Similarly, Germany awards the order *Pour le Merite for Science and Art* (1842) and Austria the *Insignia of Honour* and the *Cross of Honour for Science and Art* (1955). France awards the order of *Arts et Lettres* (1975).

Britain, however, maintains a structure of orders which precludes specific civil orders of merit for the arts and sciences. Basically, this structure consists of purely military orders; orders which are mixed (civil and military divisions); and civil orders which have no military divisions.

The extant mixed orders are as follows:

Order of the British Empire
Order of Merit
Order of the Bath

The purely civil orders which remain extant are as follows:

Order of the Garter
Order of the Thistle
Order of St Michael and St George
Order of the Companions of Honour

The only purely military order extant is the *Distinguished Service Order (DSO)*. It will be noted from the above that the inclusion of the *Order of the Garter*, the *Order of the Thistle* and the *Order of the Bath* as orders of merit point to the process whereby the ancient temporal orders of chivalry have become democratized together with the more recently instituted *Order of Merit*.

The essence of all these orders of merit is that, whilst technically the recipient is admitted to an association (as was the case in the medieval period), *de facto* all are awards for meritorious service to the state. Until 1973 (when the *Order of Good Hope* was instituted South Africa possessed no specifically national order. During the period of the Union (1910-1961) its citizens were eligible for membership of British orders, by virtue of their country's membership of the Commonwealth.

Personal orders

Where the Royal Knighthoods, because of the influence of the state in the choice of those to be thus honoured, assumed the character of orders of state (especially as personal royal power waned in favour of bureaucratized control and Parliamentary authority), the Royal Houses often founded special family orders, partly as a reward for services rendered to the monarch personally, and partly as a sign of mutual alliance when they were conferred on other sovereigns. In Britain the *Royal Victorian Order* (1896) is an illustration of such a family order, whilst the Netherlands possesses the *Order of the Family of Orange* (1905).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF SOUTH AFRICA

- (i) **The Order as instituted in 1975/1977 (ie The Order of the Star of South Africa/The Order of the Star of South Africa Silver (SSA/SSAS)).**

The Order of the Star of South Africa (1975) was instituted in terms of Warrant of 30 June 1975 (published in *Government Gazette* No 4792, dated 18 July 1975); amended Warrant of 11 May 1977 (published in *Government Gazette* No 5565, dated 27 May 1977). The Instituting Warrant of 30 June 1975 structured the order in two classes:

- (i) Class I
(ii) Class II

The first class was awarded to major generals and senior officers, in the South African Defence Force, who had

(Continued on p. 9)



Order of the Star of South Africa : Breast Star

- (a) Class I : Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1975)
- (b) Class I : Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1977)
- (c) Class I : Grand Cross (Non-Military Section) (SSA) (1978)
- (d) Class I : Grand Cross (Non-Military Section) (SSA) (1988)



Badge with ribbon

- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1975)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1977)
- (c) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military) (SSA) (1988)

Note: The badge, with neck ribbon, is depicted in this photograph.

Note: The badge is identical to Class I (Non-Military Division (1978)/Non-Military (1988)); Grand Cross. The neck ribbon, obviously, differs (cf above).



Ribbons of the Order of the Star of South Africa

Top (pure blue)

- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1975) (Neck ribbon)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Order of the Star of South Africa (Military Section) (SSA) (1977) (Neck ribbon)
- (c) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (SSA) (Military) (1988) (Neck ribbon)

Second from top (white stripe in centre)

- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Silver (Military Section) (SSAS) (1975) (Neck ribbon)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Order of the Star of South Africa Silver (1977) (Military Section) (SSAS) (Neck ribbon)
- (c) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Silver (Military) (SSAS) (1988)

Third from top (gold edges)

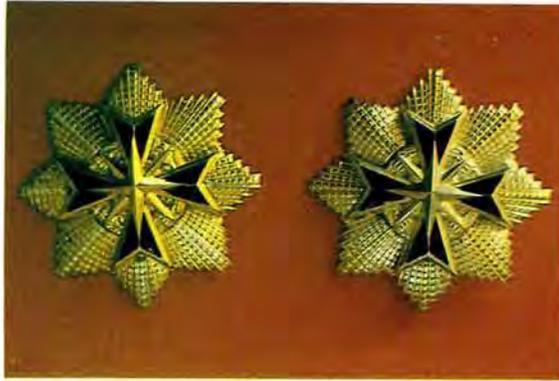
- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Grand Cross (Non-military Section) (SSA) (1978) (Neck ribbon)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Grand Cross (Non-Military) (SSA) (1988) (Neck ribbon)

Fourth from top (white edges)

- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Grand Officer (Non-military Section) (SSAS) (1978) (Neck ribbon)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Grand Officer (Non-Military) (SSAS) (1988) (Neck ribbon)

Fifth from top (gold centre, white edges)

- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class III; Commander (Non-military Section) (1978) (Neck ribbon)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class III; Commander (Non-Military) (1988) (Neck ribbon)



Order of the Star of South Africa: Breast Star

Left:

- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1975)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1977)
- (c) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military) (SSA) (1988)
- (d) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Grand Cross (Non-military Section) (SSA) (1978)
- (e) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Grand Cross (Non-Military) (SSA) (1988)

Right:

- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Silver (Military Section) (SSAS) (1975)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Order of the Star of South Africa Silver (Military Section) (SSAS) (1977)
- (c) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Silver (Military) (SSAS) (1988)
- (d) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Grand Officer (Non-military Section) (SSAS) (1978)
- (e) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Grand Officer (Non-Military) (SSAS) (1988)



- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Badge:- Class III; Commander (Non-Military Section) (1978)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Badge:- Class III; Commander (Non-Military Section) (1988)



Order of the Star of South Africa

Left:

- (a) Class IV; Officer (Non-military Section): Badge (1978) (Breast ribbon)
- (b) Class IV; Officer (Non-Military): Badge (1988) (Breast ribbon)

Right:

- (a) Class V; Knight (Non-military Section): Badge (1978) (Breast ribbon)
- (b) Class V; Member (Non-Military): Badge (1988) (Breast ribbon)



- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Badge:- Class II; Silver (Military Section) (SSAS) (1975) (Neck Ribbon)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Badge:- Class II; Order of the Star of South Africa Silver (Military Section) (SSAS) (1977) (Neck Ribbon)
- (c) Order of the Star of South Africa: Badge:- Class II; Silver (Military) (SSAS) (1988)
- (d) Order of the Star of South Africa: Badge:- Class II; Grand Officer (Non-military Section) (SSAS) (1978)
- (e) Order of the Star of South Africa: Badge:- Class II; Grand Officer (Non-Military) (SSAS) (1988)

distinguished themselves by meritorious military service in promoting the efficiency and preparedness of the South African Defence Force, thereby making a valuable contribution to the Republic's security and safety.

The second class is awarded to senior officers of the South African Defence Force who had distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service of major military significance.

The amending Warrant of 11 May 1977 re-designated the two classes as Order of the Star of South Africa (originally Class I) and Order of the Star of South Africa Silver (originally Class 2).

- (ii) **The Order as instituted in 1978 (ie consisting of a Military Section - the Order of the Star of South Africa and Order of the Star of South Africa Silver (SSA/SSAS) - and Non-military section).**

The Order of the Star of South Africa (1978) was instituted in terms of Warrant of 17 October 1978 (published in *Government Gazette* No 6193, dated 20 October 1978); amended Warrants 18 November 1986 (published *Government Gazette* No 10525, dated 21 November 1986), 2 April 1987 (published *Government Gazette* No 10731, dated 8 May 1987).

In terms of the new Warrant, two sections of the Order were established; the Military Section and the Non-military Section. Under the Military Section were grouped the two original classes of the Order of the Star of South Africa and the Order of the Star of South Africa Silver. The Non-military section instituted the following classes, in descending order of seniority:

Class I: Grand Cross. This was awarded to commanders-in-chief of the armed forces, other functionaries and persons of comparable rank and station who are not citizens of the Republic; and South African citizens who distinguish themselves by meritorious military service in promoting the efficiency and preparedness of the South African Defence Force and making a lasting contribution to the security of the Republic.

Class II: Grand Officer. This was awarded to non-citizens of the Republic, other than commanders-in-chief (ie general officers, other functionaries and persons of comparable rank and station); and to South African citizens who distinguish themselves by exceptionally meritorious service of major military importance.



- (a) **Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Grand Officer (Non-military Section) (SSAS) (1978)**
 (b) **Order of the Star of South Africa: Class II; Grand Officer (Non-Military) (SSAS) (1988)**

Artist's impression.

Note: Ribbon blue with white edges.

Class III: Commander. This was awarded to non-citizens of the Republic who are of the same rank as those eligible for Class II (cf above); and to South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service of military importance.

Class IV: Officer. This was awarded to non-citizens of the Republic holding the rank of colonels and lieutenant-colonels of the armed forces, or equivalent rank; and to South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service of military importance.

Class V: Knight. This was awarded to non-citizens occupying lower

ranks in the armed forces than those eligible for Class IV (cf above); and to South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by exceptional service of military importance.

Note: Strictly speaking, the Non-military Section of the Order of the Star of South Africa should not be regarded as encompassing a Military Order, as the classes in this section are awarded to civilians who are South African citizens (the military personnel eligible for the award being non-South African citizens). However, the classes have been detailed above as they form part of the overall order. For the same reason, the insignia of the Non-military Classes are described in detail below.

MILITARY SECTION

INSIGNIA

The 1975 Regulations promulgated that the insignia of the Military Section be as follows:

Class I: Badge and Star

The Badge to consist of a circular Protea wreath in gold; thereon a blue Maltese Cross surmounted by an eight-pointed gold star with alternate long and short rays; in the centre point a diamond.

The Star to consist of an eight-pointed multi-rayed gold star surmounted by a circular Protea wreath; thereon a blue Maltese Cross and superimposed thereon an eight-pointed gold star with alternate long and short rays; within the centre a diamond.

Class I: Chain

The Chain is worn only with the insignia of the Order of the Star of South Africa (Class I). On each side of the carrying link which is composed of a ground plan of the Castle of Good Hope, is gold thereon a blue roundel charged with the emblem of the South African Defence Force in gold, a neck chain consisting of circular links in the form of blue roundels, each charged with an eight-pointed gold star within a golden circular border.



Badge/Neck chain

- (a) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1975)
- (b) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Gold (Military Section) (SSA) (1977)
- (c) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Grand Cross (Non-military Section) (SSA) (1978)
- (d) Order of the Star of South Africa: Class I; Grand Cross (Non-Military) (SSA) (1988)

Artist's impression.

Class I: Sash

The Sash is worn only with the insignia of the Order of the Star of South Africa (Class I). It is 80 mm in width, worn across the right shoulder with the bow of the sash on the left hip; it is blue in colour.

Class 2: Badge and Star

The badge to consist of circular Protea wreath in silver; thereon a blue Maltese Cross surmounted by an eight-pointed silver star with alternate long and short rays.

The Star to consist of an eight-pointed multi-rayed silver star surmounted by a circular Protea wreath; thereon a blue

Maltese Cross and superimposed thereon an eight-pointed silver star with alternate long and short rays.

The Maltese Cross

It will be observed that the Badge of the Order of the Star of South Africa, throughout its development, spanning the period 1975-1988, has assumed the form of the Maltese Cross. This symbol clearly associates the South African Order with the traditions and ethos of Medieval chivalry. For, as is well known, it is the universally recognized symbol of the Order of St John. The Knights of St John of Jerusalem were known also at various dates as the Knights of Rhodes and Knights of Malta; cf above. In 1113 the military-monastic order *Ordo Militaris Hospitalis S. Joannis Hierosolymitani* (the Military or Knightly Order of St John Hospitaller of Jerusalem) was founded on the site of the convent attached to the Church of St John the Almoner (the monks being called the Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem). The convent had served as a hospice for Christian pilgrims and had been founded circa 600 AD. In 1118 Pope Galasius the Second confirmed the Statutes of the Order. Within a short span of time the Order emerged as an influential military institution, and also gained great political and economic importance. Following the fall of Jerusalem in 1290 the Knights of St John first migrated to Limasol, in Cyprus, and then were relocated in Rhodes. When the Knights Templars were suppressed in 1312 the Pope transferred most their vast possessions to the Order of St John, who were expelled from Rhodes by the Turks in 1522. After a brief sojourn in Crete and Sicily they transferred their principal seat to Malta, at the invitation of Charles V, in 1530. The Order of St John emerged as a most powerful military force - centred on sea power - in the Mediterranean, confronting the expanding Ottoman power in that region; and also became renowned as a healing institution. The Grand Master and his Knights, supported by the indigenous population, conducted a most courageous, and successful, defence against a massive Ottoman onslaught on the island in 1565; and the Order played a leading role in the Battle of

Lepanto (1571), which successfully halted further Moslem aggrandisement in the Mediterranean.

The specific form of the Maltese Cross probably derives from the time of the Order of St John's residence in Malta, dating from 1530. It is significant that, in the case of the Order of St Lazarus, the green Maltese Cross (the Sinople Cross) emerged during the 16th Century, authorized by the Grand Master, Jean de Levis (1557-1564). The Sinople Cross replaced the former primitive cross of the Order. (Monick, S. *The Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem: a history. Military Medal Society of South Africa Journal*, No 17 Vol II, November 1980, p 23).

The Order continued to rule Malta until the island fell under the control of Napoleon in 1798. The Order's Headquarters remain at Malta, however. Today it is known as the Sovereign Military Order of St John of Jerusalem (commonly known as the Order of Malta). The Commission of Chivalry (1963) recognized the Order as the sole Independent Order. This status permits the Order of Malta to be represented by envoys possessing diplomatic privileges.

The Order of Malta should be sharply differentiated from the Order of St John in the British Isles. In England the Order of St John was effectively dissolved during the reign of Henry VIII, as it then formed the English branch of the international Catholic Order (ie the Order of Malta). However, in 1831 the Order was revived as a specifically Protestant Order, independent of that based in Malta, and was granted a Royal Charter in 1888. It occupies the status of a semi-independent international order, but is officially recognized in the United Kingdom. Its principal activities are of a medical and charitable nature; viz the St John Ambulance, comprising the Association and its Brigade, and the Ophthalmic foundation. It should be noted that there are branches of the Order in virtually all European states.

The Maltese Cross is thus termed as it is the emblem of an Order that has been traditionally based on the island of Malta. If the arms of a hitherto straight

cross are widened it is termed a *cross formy*. If this *cross formy* has cleft arms an eight-pointed cross results. The four arms represent the four Christian virtues: temperance, prudence, justice and fortitude; whilst the eight points symbolize the Beatitudes. In white it became, to reiterate, the emblem of the Order of St John and therefore also of all the branches and successors of this Order. It is thought that the badge of the Maltese Cross originated in the white cross borne on the breast of the habit of the Augustines, who assumed control of the hospice of St John the Almoner from the Benedictines, under the leadership of the blessed Gerrard. It should be noted that several orders adopted the Maltese Cross with deeply split arms. In red it is borne by the knights of the Tuscan Order of St Stephen, in green by the Order of St Lazarus; whilst in blue it became the emblem of the Prussian military order (the *Pour le Mérite*.)

There is, indeed, no emblem more familiar than the Maltese Cross. Under the Geneva Convention the Cross of Malta is entitled to the same recognition by belligerents in war as is the Red Cross.

Wearing of the insignia

(i) *Order of the Star of South Africa*

Ceremonial dress: either

(a) The insignia pendent from the neck chain with the breast star on the left breast;

or

(b) The insignia pendent from the neck ribbon with the breast star on the left breast.

Mess Dress: The insignia pendent from the neck chain

(a) With the breast star and miniature on the left breast;

or

(b) The insignia affixed to the bow of the sash with the breast star and miniature on the left breast.

Other military dress: With other military dress, without decorations and medals, only the breast ribbon with the rosette thereon shall be worn on the left breast.

(ii) *Order of the Star of South Africa Silver*

Ceremonial dress: The insignia pendent from the neck ribbon with the breast star on the left breast.

Mess Dress: The insignia pendent from the neck ribbon with the breast star and miniature on the left breast.

Other military dress: With other military dress, without decorations and medals, only the breast ribbon and the rosette thereon shall be worn on the left breast.

RIBBONS

(i) *Order of the Star of South Africa*

Neck ribbon: Blue, 37 mm in width.

Breast ribbon: Blue, 44 mm in width (worn with blue rosette on gold background).

Miniature ribbon: Blue, 20 mm in width.

(ii) *Order of the Star of South Africa Silver*

Neck ribbon: Blue, 37 mm in width with 2 mm white centre stripe (worn with blue rosette on silver background).

Breast ribbon: Blue, 44 mm in width, with 2 mm white centre stripe (worn with blue rosette on silver background).

Miniature ribbon: Blue, 20 mm in width, with 1 mm white centre stripe.

Note: The 1977 Regulations, in which the two classes of the Order were re-designated Order of the Star of South Africa and Order of the Star of South Africa Silver, promulgated identical insignia; as did the Warrant of 17 October 1978, which restructured the order.

NON-MILITARY SECTION

INSIGNIA

Class I: Grand Cross; Badge and Star.

The Badge to consist of a circular Protea wreath in gold; thereon a blue Maltese Cross with gold edging, surmounted by an eight-pointed gold star with alternate long and short rays; in the centre of which is a diamond.

The Star to consist of an eight-pointed multi-rayed gold star, with the longest rays in silver, surmounted by a circular Protea wreath; thereon a blue Maltese Cross with gold edging, superimposed on which is an eight-pointed gold star with alternate long and short rays; in the centre of which is a diamond.

Class I: Grand Cross; Chain

The Chain is worn in the Non-military Section only with the insignia of Class I (ie Grand Cross). It is identical to that prescribed for the Order of the Star of South Africa (ie Class I in the Military Division).

Class I: Grand Cross; Sash

The Sash is worn in the Non-military Section only with the insignia of Class I. It is 80 mm in width, worn across the right shoulder with the bow of the Sash on the left hip; it is blue in colour.

Class II: Grand Officer; Badge and Star.

The Badge to consist of a circular Protea wreath with silver edging; thereon a blue Maltese Cross with silver edging; surmounted by an eight pointed silver star with alternate long and short rays.

The Star to consist of an eight-pointed multi-rayed silver star with the longest rays in gold, surmounted by a circular Protea wreath; thereon a blue Maltese Cross with silver edging and superimposed thereon an eight-pointed silver star with alternate long and short rays.

Class III: Commander.

A Badge, to consist of a blue Maltese Cross with gold edging, charged with

an eight-pointed gold star with alternate long and short rays.

Class IV: Officer.

A Badge, to consist of a blue Maltese Cross with gold edging, charged with an eight-pointed gold star with alternate long rays in gold and short rays in silver.

Class V: Knight.

A Badge, to consist of a blue Maltese Cross with silver edging, charged with an eight-pointed silver star with alternate long and short rays.

Wearing of the insignia

The insignia of the Grand Cross (ie Class I) is worn with the neck chain around the neck, with the Breast Star pinned on the left breast.

The insignia of the Grand Officer (ie Class II) is worn with the neck ribbon, around the neck, with the Breast Star pinned on the left breast.

The insignia of the Commander (ie Class III) is worn around the neck pendent from the neck ribbon.

The insignia of the Officer and Knight (ie Classes IV and V) is worn on the left breast pendent from the respective breast ribbons.

Officers of the armed forces (ie those who are members of the Citizen Force or Commandos and who, not being members of the Permanent Force, thus qualify for awards within the Non-military Section) will vary the above procedures according to the Dress Regulations of their respective services; as will officers of the uniformed public services and those of the armed forces of other countries. When in uniform officers to whom the Grand Cross, the Grand Officer and Commander Classes of the Non-military Section of the Order have been awarded, wear the rosettes on the breast ribbons. Civilians and officers in civilian clothes wear the respective rosettes in their lapel buttonholes.

RIBBONS

Class I: Grand Cross.

Breast ribbon: Blue, 44 mm in width with 2 mm gold edges (worn with rosette in colours of ribbon on gold background).

Miniature ribbon: Blue, 20 mm in width with 1 mm gold edges.

Class II: Grand Officer.

Neck ribbon: Blue, 37 mm in width with 2 mm silver edges.

Breast ribbon: Blue, 44 mm in width with 2 mm silver edges (worn with rosette in colours of ribbon on silver background).

Miniature ribbon: Blue, 20 mm in width with 1 mm silver edges.

Class III: Commander.

Neck ribbon: Blue, 37 mm in width with 2 mm silver edges and 2 mm gold centre stripe.

Breast ribbon: Blue, 44 mm in width with 2 mm silver edges and 2 mm gold centre stripe (worn with rosette in colours of ribbon on silver background).

Miniature ribbon: Blue, 20 mm in width with 1 mm silver edges and 1 mm gold centre stripe.

Class IV: Officer.

44 mm in width, divided into nine parts: silver (2 mm), blue (16 mm), silver (1 mm), blue (2 mm), gold (2 mm), and repeat in reverse.

Class V: Knight.

44 mm in width, divided into nine parts: silver (2 mm), blue (16 mm), silver (1 mm), blue (2 mm), silver (2 mm) and repeat in reverse.

Post-nominal letters

In terms of the original instituting Warrants, only recipients of the two classes in the Military Section were entitled to append post-nominal letters (SSA/SSAS) after their names. However, the amending Warrant of 2 April 1987 (published in *Government Gazette* No 10731,

dated 8 May 1987) appears to make provision for the application of the letters 'SSA' and 'SSAS' to all five grades within the Non-military section. These grades are in descending order of seniority. However, the latter three (Commander, Officer, Knight), by virtue of the application of the post-nominal letters attached to the two grades within the Military Section, possess the same status as the two senior grades within the Non-military Section (Grand Cross, Grand Officer).

The Order as instituted in 1988, in which the two divisions (Military and Non-military) were each elevated to the status of distinct orders within their own right.

A. ORDER OF THE STAR OF SOUTH AFRICA (MILITARY)

The Order was instituted in terms of Warrant of 23 March 1988 (published in *Government Gazette* No 11251, dated 15 April 1988).

The Order is divided into the following Classes:

- (a) **Class I: Gold** (SSA). Awarded to generals and higher officers or officers of comparable rank who have distinguished themselves by meritorious military service promoting the efficiency and contributing lastingly to the security of the Republic of South Africa.
- (b) **Class II: Silver** (SSAS). Awarded to brigadiers and higher officers or officers of comparable rank who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service of major military importance.

The Order may be awarded posthumously.

Recipients of Class I:Gold are entitled to the post-nominal letters SSA (Order of the Star of South Africa) and those in the second Class (Class II: Silver) SSAS (Order of the Star of South Africa Silver).

INSIGNIA

- (i) **Class I: Gold.**
 - (a) A Neck Badge consisting of a circular protea wreath in

gold, thereon a blue Maltese Cross bordered in gold surmounted by an eight-pointed gold star with alternate long and short rays, and in the centre a diamond.

- (b) A Pendant in gold consisting of four bound rods within a laurel wreath.
- (c) A Breast Star, consisting of an eight-pointed multi-rayed star in gold surmounted by a circular protea wreath, thereon a blue Maltese Cross bordered in gold, surmounted by an eight-pointed star with alternate long and short rays in gold.
- (d) A miniature Badge in gold identical to the obverse design of the neck badge without a diamond.
- (e) A rosette in gold identical to the obverse design of the Neck Badge, without a diamond.

(ii) **Class II: Silver.**

- (a) A Neck Badge, consisting of a circular protea wreath in silver, thereon a blue Maltese Cross bordered in silver, surmounted by an eight-pointed star in silver with alternate long and short rays.
- (b) A Pendant, similar to that in Class I: Gold, but struck in silver.
- (c) A Breast Star, consisting of an eight-pointed multi-rayed star in silver surmounted by a circular protea wreath, thereon a blue Maltese Cross bordered in silver, surmounted by an eight-pointed star with alternate long and short rays in silver.
- (d) A miniature Badge in silver, identical to the obverse design of the Neck Badge.

In both Classes the reverse of the Neck Badge bears the embellished Coat of

Arms of the Republic of South Africa. The reverse also bears an inscribed serial number.

Manner of wearing insignia

Class I: Gold.

- (a) *Ceremonial dress:* The Neck Badge pendent from the neck ribbon with the Breast Star on the left of the chest.
- (b) *Mess Dress:* The Neck Badge pendent from the neck ribbon with the Breast Star and miniature Badge on the left of the chest.

Class II: Silver.

- (a) *Ceremonial dress:* The Neck Badge pendent from the neck ribbon with the Breast Star on the left of the chest.
- (b) *Mess Dress:* The Neck Badge pendent from the neck ribbon with the Breast Star and miniature on the left of the chest.

Rosettes worn on civilian clothes and in uniform

When dressed in civilian clothes, persons to whom the Order has been awarded may wear the rosette of the respective classes in the lapel button-holes, or as a brooch when worn by ladies. When worn on uniform, it is attached to the breast ribbon, forming an integral design of the breast ribbon.

RIBBONS

- (a) **Class I: Gold.** 36 mm in width, blue (neck ribbon).
- (b) **Class II: Silver.** 36 mm in width, blue with a vertical white stripe 2 mm in width, in the centre (neck ribbon).

Notes on ribbons

In the two classes, the breast ribbon (ie worn on the uniform when orders, decorations and medals are not displayed) is identical in width to the rib-

bon attached to the Badge. The ribbon of the miniature Badge in each Class is half the size of the width of the full-sized ribbon; and the ribbon colours are, presumably, half the size of those of the full-sized ribbon.

B. ORDER OF THE STAR OF SOUTH AFRICA (NON-MILITARY)

This Order was instituted in terms of Warrant of 23 March 1988 (published in *Government Gazette* No 11251, dated 15 April 1988).

The Order is divided into the following Classes:

- (a) **Class I: Grand Cross (Gold) (SSA).** Awarded to major generals and higher officers or persons of equivalent ranks and other South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by excellent meritorious service contributing lastingly to the security and/or general national interest of the Republic of South Africa.
- (b) **Class II: Grand Officer (Silver) (SSAS).** Awarded to brigadiers and higher officers or persons of equivalent ranks and other South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious service contributing significantly to the security and/or general national interest of the Republic of South Africa.
- (c) **Class III: Commander.** Awarded to South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service contributing to the security and/or general national interest of the Republic of South Africa.
- (d) **Class IV: Officer.** Awarded to South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service contributing to the security and/or general

national interest of the Republic of South Africa.

- (e) **Class V: Member.** Awarded to South African citizens who have distinguished themselves by exceptional service contributing to the security and/or general national interest of the Republic of South Africa.

The Order may be awarded posthumously.

INSIGNIA

- (i) **Class I: Grand Cross (Gold) (SSA).**
 - (a) A Neck Badge, consisting of a circular protea wreath in gold, thereon a blue Maltese Cross bordered in gold surmounted by an eight-pointed star with alternate long and short rays and in the centre a diamond.
 - (b) A gold Pendent consisting of four bound rods within a laurel wreath.
 - (c) A Breast Star, consisting of an eight-pointed multi-rayed star in gold with the longest rays in silver surmounted by a circular protea wreath, thereon a blue Maltese Cross bordered in gold, surmounted by an eight-pointed star with alternate long and short rays in gold.
 - (d) A miniature Badge in gold, identical to the obverse design of the neck badge, but without a diamond.
- (ii) **Class II: Grand Officer (Silver) (SSAS).**
 - (a) A Neck Badge, consisting of a circular protea wreath in silver, thereon a blue Maltese Cross bordered in silver, surmounted with an eight-pointed star in silver with alternate long and short rays.
 - (b) A Pendent, similar to that worn in Class I (Grand Cross) but struck in silver.

- (c) A Breast Star, consisting of an eight-pointed multi-rayed star in silver with the longest rays in gold surmounted by a circular protea wreath, thereon a blue Maltese Cross bordered in silver, surmounted by an eight-pointed star with alternate long and short rays in silver.
- (d) A miniature Badge, in silver, identical to the obverse of the Neck Badge.
- (e) A rosette in gold against a silver background, identical to the obverse of the neck decoration.

(iii) **Class III: Commander.**

- (a) A Neck Badge consisting of a blue Maltese Cross bordered in gold surmounted by an eight-pointed star with alternate long and short rays in gold.
- (b) A Pendant identical to that worn in Class II (Grand Officer).
- (c) A miniature Badge in silver, identical to the obverse of the Neck Badge.
- (d) A rosette in silver, on a gold background, identical to the obverse design of the Neck Badge.

(iv.) **Class IV: Officer.**

- (a) A Breast Badge, consisting of a blue Maltese Cross bordered in gold surmounted by an eight-pointed star with alternate long rays in gold and short rays in silver.
- (b) A miniature Badge, identical to the obverse design of the Neck Badge.
- (c) A rosette in silver, identical to the obverse design of the Neck Badge.

(v) **Class V: Member.**

- (a) A Breast badge, consisting of a blue Maltese Cross bor-

dered in silver surmounted by an eight-pointed star with alternate long and short rays in silver.

- (b) A miniature Badge, identical to the obverse design of the Neck Badge.

Note on neck badge

The reverse of the neck badge for all Classes bears the embellished Coat of Arms of the Republic of South Africa, and an inscribed serial number.

Manner of wearing insignia

(i) **Officers of service departments, excluding the South African Defence Force**

- (a) The Neck Badge of Class I and Class II is worn around the neck pendent from the neck ribbon and the Breast Star pinned to the left of the chest in accordance with the dress regulations of each service department.
- (b) The Neck Badge of Class III is worn around the neck pendent from the neck ribbon in accordance with the dress regulations of each service department.
- (c) The Breast Badge of Class IV and Class V is worn on the left of the chest pendent from the respective breast ribbons in accordance with the dress regulations of each service department.
- (d) Officers who have been awarded Class I, Class II, Class III or Class IV of the Order shall wear the rosettes of the respective classes in accordance with the dress regulations of each service department. (Presumably the rosette forms part of the integral design of the breast ribbon).

(ii) **With Mess Dress**

- (a) Holders of Class I and Class II of the Order wear the Neck

Badge pendent from the neck ribbon with the miniature badge on the left breast.

- (b) Holders of Class III of the Order wear the Neck Badge pendent from the neck ribbon with the miniature Badge on the left breast.
- (c) Holders of Class IV and Class V wear the miniature Badge of the Order on the left breast.

(iii) **With normal civilian clothes**

- (a) The Neck Badge of Class I and Class II is worn pendent from the Neck Ribbon around the neck and the Breast Star pinned to the left of the chest. When awarded to a lady, it is worn on the left shoulder pendent from a ribbon made up into a bow.
- (b) The Neck Badge of Class III is worn around the neck pendent from the neck ribbon. In the case of ladies, the insignia is worn on the left shoulder pendent from a ribbon made up into a bow.
- (c) The Breast Badge of Class IV and Class V is worn pendent from the breast ribbon on the left of the chest.
- (d) Persons who have been awarded Class I, Class II, Class III or Class IV of the order wear the rosettes of the respective classes on the left lapel of the jacket, or, in the case of ladies, as a brooch.

(iv) **With civilian evening clothes**

At evening functions with black tie, when decorations and medals are worn, the insignia of the order is worn as follows:

- (a) Holders of Class I and Class II wear the Neck Badge pendent from the neck ribbon and the Breast Star and miniature Badge on the left breast.

- (b) Holders of Class III wear the Neck Badge pendent from a neck ribbon with the miniature Badge on the left breast.
- (c) Holders of Class IV and Class V wear the miniature Badge on the left breast.

RIBBONS

Class I: Grand Cross (Gold) (SSA): 36 mm in width, blue, bordered with vertical gold stripes each 2 mm in width (neck ribbon).

Class II: Grand Officer (Silver) (SSAS): 36 mm in width, blue, bordered with vertical silver stripes each 2 mm in width (neck ribbon).

Class III: Commander. 36 mm in width, bordered with vertical silver stripes each 2 mm in width, with a gold stripe 2 mm in width in the centre (neck ribbon).

Class IV: Officer. 36 mm in width, divided into nine parts: silver (2 mm), blue (12 mm), silver (1 mm), blue (2 mm), gold (2 mm), repeat in reverse.

Class V: Member. 36 mm in width, divided into nine parts: silver (2 mm), blue (12 mm), silver (1 mm), blue (2 mm), silver (2 mm), repeat in reverse.

Notes on ribbons

In each of the five classes of the order, the breast ribbon (ie worn on the uniform when orders, decorations and medals are not displayed) is identical in width to the ribbon attached to the piece.

The ribbon of the miniature Badge is half the width of the full-sized ribbon; and the ribbon colours are presumably half the size of the full-sized ribbon.

Post-nominal letters

Recipients of the first two classes (Grand Cross and Grand Officer) are entitled to the post-nominal letters SSA (Order of the Star of South Africa) and SSAS (Order of the Star of South Africa Silver) respectively.

NOTES ON COMPARISON BETWEEN 1988 VERSION OF THE ORDER AND PRECEDING STRUCTURE

A number of contrasts between the order as re-structured in 1988 and the former versions instituted in 1975/1977 and 1978 immediately present themselves.

- (i) To recapitulate, the former divisions (military and non-military) have been re-structured into separate orders within their own right.
- (ii) The fifth class within the Order of the Star of South Africa (Non-Military) is now designated 'Member' in place of the former designation of 'Knight' applicable to the 1978 version.
- (iii) Important modifications have been effected within the sphere of insignia, and these may be summarized as follows:-
 - (a) *The neck chain:* Worn with the insignia of Class I of the Military Section in the original 1975 version of the Order and with Class I of the Military Section and the Non-military Section in the 1975/1977 and 1978 versions of the Order. This is no longer worn.
 - (b) The sash; worn with the insignia of Class I of the Military Section and Class I of the Non-military Section in the 1978 version of the Order; and with the insignia of Class I in the original 1975 version. This is no longer worn.
 - (c) There is now provision for the miniature badge to be worn in all five Classes of the Order of the Star of South Africa (Non-Military). In the former Non-military Section of the Order (as instituted in 1978) such provision applied to the first three Classes only.
 - (d) The rosette is now worn with the ribbon of Class IV of the

Order (Non-Military). Previously it was applicable only to the first three Classes of the Non-military Section.

(e) The ribbon width has now been standardized to measure 36 mm. In the previous regulations, the neck ribbon measured 37 mm and the breast ribbon 44 mm. As noted above, the standard measurement now applies to all ribbons.

(f) The 1988 version of the Order features a Pendant (which forms part of the insignia applicable to Classes I-III of the Non-Military Order); and to Classes I-II of the Military Order. This insignia represents an innovation.

(iv) The situation with regard to post-nominal letters has now been clarified. As stated above, an amending Warrant dated 2 April 1987 allowed recipients of the Order in the Non-military Section to append the same post-nominal letters which were applicable to the Military Division (ie SSA,SSAS). However, to reiterate, confusion accrued from the fact that there was a considerable degree of uncertainty as to whether the post-nominal letters applied to all five Classes of the Non-military Section. The regulations framed in 1988 clearly prescribed that these post-nominal letters are applicable only to the two most senior Classes of the Military and Non-Military Order.

(v) Most importantly, there has been a decisive shift of emphasis regarding conditions of eligibility. The inclusion of non-South African citizens of certain rank, which was a marked feature of the regulations in the 1978 version of the Order, is noticeable absent in the 1988 version. Presumably, the re-constituted *Order of Good Hope* (1988) embodies recognition of services previously rewarded with the Order of the Star of South Africa.

FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF SOUTH AFRICA

The development of the Order of the Star of South Africa violates one of the central demands of the successful management of a medal pantheon; viz the requirement of stability, ensuring that awards, once instituted, remain firmly anchored in the national structure of honours.

The root of the problems associated with the Order of the Star of South Af-

has, in actual fact, polarized this situation, by converting the former sections into distinct and separate orders. The approach, in the writer's opinion, is fundamentally misleading. For the distinction between the two sections/Orders is essentially unreal. In both sections/Orders the award embodies recognition of distinguished service of a military character.

The problem could be resolved simply, but effectively, by returning to the concept of parallel classes within the Military and Civil Divisions. Such a restructured order could feasibly present the following pattern: (*illustrated below*)

<i>Military Division</i>	<i>Civilian Division</i>
Class I: Grand Cross (SSA)	Class I: Grand Cross (SSA)
Class II: Grand Officer (SSAS)	Class II: Grand Officer (SSAS)
Class III: Commander (CSSA)	Class III: Commander (CSSA)
Class IV: Officer (OSSA)	Class IV: Officer (OSSA)
Class V: Member (MSSA)	Class V: Member (MSSA)

rica, in the writer's opinion, resides in the fact that it departs from a fundamental tenet, implicit in the traditional anchors of European Orders. The separation from this tradition is especially ironic as the symbolism of the Order's Badge is emblematic of its lineage with this historical background. As discussed in the section above, entitled *The origin and development of Orders*, the majority of British and Continental Orders are characterized by two parallel classes, military and civil. The term 'parallel' refers to the fact that each grade has its civil and military divisions. However, in the Order of the Star of South Africa one has not parallel, but a hierarchical structure of military and civil classes. The classes within the Non-Military Section are clearly distinct from those of the Military Section; in effect implying the presence of two orders under the aegis of the designation Order of the Star of South Africa.

The re-structuring of the Order in 1988

It will be noted that each class, in the hypothetical re-organization, confers post-nominal letters.

According to this purely hypothetical structure, one has the situation whereby a single order, representing a mixed order of merit, caters equally to both members of the armed forces (Permanent Force/Citizen Force/Commandos) and those who have served in other forces concerned with the security of the Republic (eg police officers, members of the National Intelligence Service, members of the Fire Service, etc). Admission to the respective grade would be on the basis of degree of achievement, and not rank or institution. Such a reorganization possesses two further major advantages.

The first is that of flexibility. The successful management of a medal pantheon demands universality; ie that awards should, as far as possible, be applicable to individuals irrespective of their association with a specific institu-

tion. The envisaged restructuring of the Order discussed above provides for the widest possible range of institutions to be admitted to the order. The second important asset implicit in the scheme outlined above is that of flexibility. The common South African practice where-by the regulations stipulate that the award in question be confined to the most senior ranks of the service would be avoided. Admittedly, it is a generally recognized feature of the British award structure that certain honours (eg inclusion within the higher grades of orders, conferring knighthood) are confined to the most senior ranks of the armed and civil services. But, it should be emphasized, this facet represents a traditional usage and not a fixed stipulation. A certain degree of latitude is thus facilitated, permitting recognition, through the award of such honours, to individuals who have rendered exceptional service, and yet do not fall within the ranks of those normally eligible for such forms of recognition. Indeed, it may be feasibly argued that the source of the unreal distinction between the Military and Non-Military Sections/Orders of the Star of South Africa is rooted in the restriction of the

former to the most senior officers of the Permanent Force.

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