

## THE NATIONAL HONOURS ACT 1964

(1964 No. 5)

### ARRANGEMENT OF ARTICLES

1. Citation, commencement and interpretation.
2. Establishment of medals for armed forces.
3. Eligibility for award of medals.
4. Bars and clasps for additional services.
5. Commanding officer's recommendation.
6. Mode of awarding medals, etc.
7. Form of medals, etc.
8. Miniatures and ribbons.
9. Use of initials.
10. Precedence.
11. Deprivation.
12. Replacement of lost medal.

### The Honours (Armed Forces) Warrant 1965

*Commencement : 20th September 1965*

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by the National Honours Act, 1964, and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, Nnamdi Azikiwe, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, hereby make the following warrant :—

1.—(1) This warrant may be cited as the Honours (Armed Forces) Warrant 1965 and shall come into force on 20th September 1965.

(2) In this warrant—

“the appropriate service authority”, in relation to a member of any of the armed forces, means the Nigerian Army Council, the Navy Board, or the Nigerian Air Council, according to whichever of the armed forces he is a member of ;

“the armed forces” means the Nigerian Army, Navy and Air Force ;

“boy's service” means service in any of the armed forces before attaining the age of eighteen years ;

“colour service” means service in any of the armed forces other than service in the reserve within the meaning of the relevant service Act ;

“commanding officer” has the same meaning as in the relevant service Act ;

“commissioned officer” means an officer holding a commission in any of the armed forces ;

“holder”, in relation to a service medal, means a person who has been awarded that medal and has not been deprived of it or who, having been deprived of it, has had it restored to him ;

Citation,  
commence-  
ment and  
interpre-  
tation.

1960 No. 26.  
1964 No. 21.  
1964 No. 11.

“the relevant service Act” means the Nigerian Army Act 1960, the Navy Act 1964 or the Air Force Act 1964, according to whichever of the armed forces is in question ;

“service medal” means any medal established by article 2 below.

(3) In the case of a ribbon which in pursuance of this warrant is divided laterally into a number of divisions, references in this warrant—

(a) to the first of those divisions is a reference to the division which, when the ribbon is viewed from the front, lies to the left of all the other divisions ;

(b) to the second of those divisions is a reference to the division adjacent to the first division,

and so on from left to right.

Establish-  
ment of  
medals for  
armed forces.

2. There are hereby established for the armed forces the following medals, namely—

- (1) the Nigeria Star ;
- (2) the River Niger Star ;
- (3) the River Benue Star ;
- (4) the Nigeria Eagle ;
- (5) the Distinguished Service Medal ;
- (6) the Loyal Service and Good Conduct Medal ;
- (7) the Forces Service Star.

Eligibility  
for award of  
medals.

3.—(1) The Nigeria Star may be awarded to any member of any of the armed forces for the most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy, or for a pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice in the presence of the enemy, or for devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy, and may be awarded posthumously.

(2) The River Niger Star may be awarded to any commissioned officer in any of the armed forces for a distinguished act of bravery in the presence of the enemy.

(3) The River Benue Star may be awarded to any commissioned officer in any of the armed forces for a distinguished act of gallantry in the course of duty.

(4) The Nigeria Eagle may be awarded to any member of any of the armed forces, other than a commissioned officer, for a distinguished act of bravery in the presence of the enemy.

(5) The Distinguished Service Medal may be awarded to any member of any of the armed forces, other than a commissioned officer, for a distinguished act of gallantry in the course of duty.

(6) The Loyal Service and Good Conduct Medal may be awarded to any member of any of the armed forces, other than a commissioned officer, who—

(a) has completed sixteen years colour service exclusive of boy's service ;  
and

(b) is a holder of the Forces Service Star ; and

(c) has maintained an exemplary record since the award to him of the Forces Service Star :

Provided that a commissioned officer who satisfies the above conditions may be awarded the medal if, at the date of his appointment to a commission, he had completed twelve years colour service, exclusive of boy's service.

(7) The Forces Service Star may be awarded to any member of any of the armed forces, other than a commissioned officer, who has completed twelve years colour service, exclusive of boy's service, and has maintained an exemplary record during that period.

(8) The foregoing provisions of this article shall have effect subject to article 5 below.

4.—(1) If a person to whom a service medal numbered (1), (3), (4) or (5) in article 2 above has been awarded subsequently does something which, if he had not been awarded that medal, would have rendered him eligible for it, he may be awarded a bar to be affixed to the ribbon attached to the medal ; and an additional bar may be awarded for every additional performance of such services.

Bars and clasps for additional services.

(2) If a person to whom the Forces Service Star has been awarded subsequently completes a further period of twelve years' colour service (whether beginning with the date of that award or with a later date) during which he has maintained an exemplary record, he may be awarded a clasp to be affixed to the ribbon attached to the medal ; and if, having been awarded a clasp, he subsequently completes a third period of twelve years colour service (whether beginning with the date of the award of the clasp or with a later date) during which he has maintained an exemplary record, he may be awarded a second clasp to be affixed as aforesaid.

(3) The foregoing provisions of this article shall have effect subject to article 5 below.

5. The President shall not award a service medal or any bar or clasp thereto to any person unless that person's commanding officer has recommended him for the award on grounds specified in the recommendation.

Commanding officer's recommendation.

6.—(1) The President shall by notice in the Federal Gazette signify his intention of awarding a person a service medal or a bar or clasp thereto.

Mode of awarding medals, etc.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3) below a person shall be awarded a service medal or a bar or clasp thereto when he receives the medal, bar or clasp from the President in person at an investiture held for the purpose.

(3) If in the case of any person it appears to the President expedient to dispense with the requirements of paragraph (2) above, he may direct that that person shall be awarded the medal, bar or clasp in question in such manner as may be specified in the direction.

(4) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to the President or of such other officer as the President may determine, to establish and maintain a register in respect of each service medal and to enter in the register particulars of the persons awarded the medal or any bar or clasp thereto.

7.—(1) The Nigeria Star—

(a) shall be of solid gold of the shape shown in the Schedule of this warrant having, in the centre, the arms of the Federal Republic surrounded by the words "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ; FOR VALOUR", and

Form of medals, etc.,

(b) shall have attached to it a scarlet ribbon having embroidered thereon in gold a small representation of an eagle.

(2) The River Niger Star—

(a) shall be of gold-plated metal of the shape shown in the Schedule of this warrant having, in the centre, two crossed swords surmounted by a representation of an eagle, the swords and eagle being surrounded by the words "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ; FOR BRAVERY" ; and

(b) shall have attached to it a ribbon divided laterally into five equal divisions of which the first and fifth shall be red, the second navy blue, the third khaki, and the fourth air-force green.

(3) The River Benue Star—

(a) shall be of silver-plated metal of the shape shown in the Schedule of this warrant having, in the centre, a representation of a warrior drawing a bow, the representation being surrounded by the words "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA : FOR GALLANTRY" ; and

(b) shall have attached to it a ribbon divided laterally into nine equal divisions of which the first, third, seventh and ninth shall be green, the second and eighth white, the fourth and sixth black, and the fifth red.

(4) The Nigerian Eagle—

(a) shall consist of a circular disc of gold-plated metal of the shape shown in the Schedule of this warrant having, on the obverse, a representation of an eagle surrounded by the words "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA" and on the reverse, the words "FOR BRAVERY IN ACTION" surrounded by the words "NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES" ; and

(b) shall have attached to it a shiny black ribbon.

(5) The Distinguished Service Medal—

(a) shall consist of a circular bronze disc of the shape shown in the Schedule of this warrant having, on the obverse, the arms of the Federal Republic surrounded by the words "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA" and, on the reverse, the words "FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE" surrounded by the words "NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES" ; and

(b) shall have attached to it a ribbon divided laterally into five equal divisions of which the first and fifth shall be blue, the second and fourth black, and the third, red.

(6) The Loyal Service and Good Conduct Medal—

(a) shall consist of a circular disc of silver-plated metal of the shape shown in the Schedule of this warrant having, on the obverse, a representation of the map of Nigeria surrounded by the words "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, and, on the reverse, the words "FOR LOYAL SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT" and surrounding those words the number, rank and name of the holder and the words "NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES" ; and

(b) shall have attached to it a ribbon divided laterally into five equal divisions of which the first shall be dark blue, the second and fourth white, the third red and the fifth sky-blue.

(7) The Forces Service Star—

(a) shall consist of a circular nickel disc of the shape shown in the Schedule of this warrant having, on the obverse, a five-pointed star surrounded by the words "FOR RECOGNISED SERVICE" and, on the reverse, surrounding a blank central space, the words "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA" ; and

(b) shall have attached to it a ribbon divided laterally into five equal divisions of which the first and fifth shall be blue, the second and fourth green, and the third, white.

(8) Each of the ribbons mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs shall be  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide.

(9) Every service medal shall be worn suspended by its ribbon from the left breast of the outer garment of its wearer.

8. The holder of any service medal may, when not wearing the medal itself, wear on the left breast of his outer garment—

Miniatures  
and ribbons

(a) a miniature reproduction of the medal (and of any bar or clasp thereto which has been awarded to him) of such size and pattern as may be approved by the President ; or

(b) a piece of ribbon of the same width and design as the ribbon attached to the medal bearing, in the case of a person who has been awarded one or more bars or clasps to the medal, the corresponding number of miniature reproductions of the bar or clasp of such size and pattern as may be approved by the President.

9. The holder of a service medal mentioned in the first column of the following table may use after his name the letters appearing opposite that medal in the second column of that table.

Use of  
initials.

*Table*

The Nigerian Star	..	..	..	..	N.S.
The River Niger Star	..	..	..	..	R.N.S.
The River Benue Star	..	..	..	..	R.B.S.
The Distinguished Service Medal	..	..	..	..	D.S.M.

10.—(1) In so far as the precedence as between themselves of holders of service medals falls to be determined by reference to their respective service medals—

Precedence.

(a) The holder of a medal mentioned in any paragraph of article 2 above shall take precedence over the holder of medals mentioned in the following paragraphs of that article ; and

(b) as between two persons holding the same medal, the person first awarded that medal shall take precedence over the other.

11.—(1) The President may, if the appropriate service authority so recommends—

Deprivation.

(a) by notice in the Federal Gazette deprive the holder of any service medal of that medal ;

(b) by the like notice restore any service medal to a person who has been deprived thereof in pursuance of this article ;

and on the publication of a notice under this paragraph in respect of any person the officer charged with the duty of maintaining the register established in pursuance of this warrant in respect of any medal to which the notice relates shall forthwith strike out or re-insert the particulars of that person in that register, as the case may require.

(2) On the publication of a notice under paragraph (1) (a) above in respect of any person, that person shall forthwith deliver up every medal to which the notice relates, together with its ribbon, to or in accordance with the directions of, the Secretary to the President.

Replacement  
of lost medal.

12.—The appropriate service authority may, in a case where that authority is satisfied that a service medal awarded in pursuance of this warrant has been lost or destroyed, recommend that a replacement be issued to the holder, and on such a recommendation the President may authorise the issue of a replacement accordingly ; but except where the recommendation states that the appropriate service authority is satisfied that the loss or destruction occurred while the holder was on duty or was due to circumstances beyond his control, a replacement shall not be issued until the cost thereof has been met by the holder.

MADE in Lagos, this 13th day of October 1965.

NNAMDI AZIKIWE,  
*President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*

NOTE.—(a) This note does not form part of this Warrant.

Section 75 (2) of the Constitution of the Federation, as modified by Schedule 2 of the Constitution (Suspension and Modification) Decree 1966, provides that any law providing for the award of decorations shall confer the power to make the award on the Head of the Federal Military Government ; and accordingly in the National Honours Act 1964 and in the above Warrant, which was made under that Act and signed in October 1964, references to the President are, by virtue of section 12 (1) of the above-mentioned Decree, to be read as references to the Head of the Federal Military Government.

SCHEDULE  
THE NIGERIA STAR

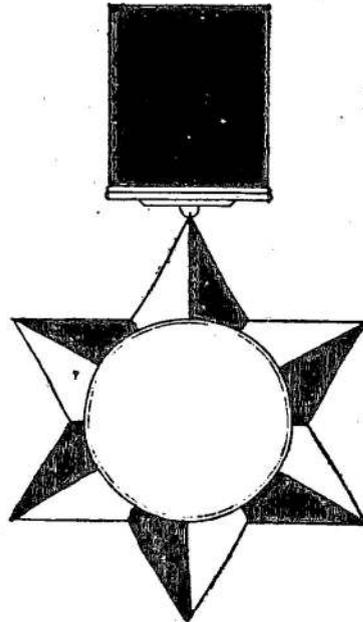
Fig 1

NIGERIA STAR

OBVERSE

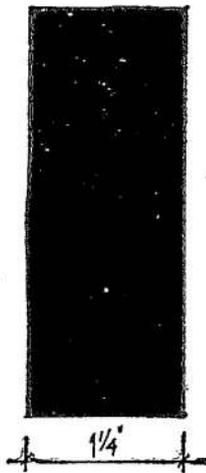


REVERSE



DIAMETER OF CIRCLE  $\frac{3}{4}$ "  
METAL - GOLD GOLD

RIBBON



WIDTH..... $\frac{1}{4}$ "  
COLOURS.... { SCARLET RED WITH A  
                          LITTLE GOLD EAGLE  
                          ON IT.

As is described in the warrant

THE RIVER NIGER STAR

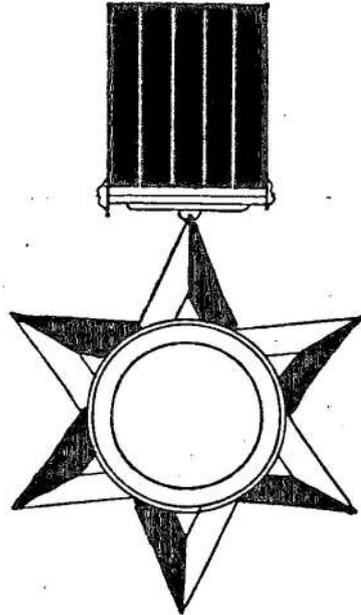
Fig 2

RIVER NIGER STAR

OBVERSE

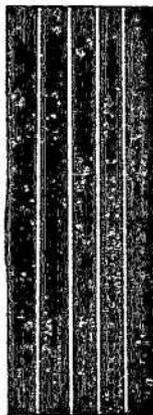


REVERSE



DIAMETER OF CIRCLE  $\frac{3}{4}$ "  
METAL - GOLD PLATED

RIBBON



$1\frac{1}{4}$ "

WIDTH -----  $1\frac{1}{4}$ "  
COLOURS ----- { RED - BATTLEFIELD  
 KHAKI - ARMY  
 BLUE - NAVY  
 PALE GREEN (SKY) - AIR FORCE

As is described in the warrant

THE RIVER BENUE STAR

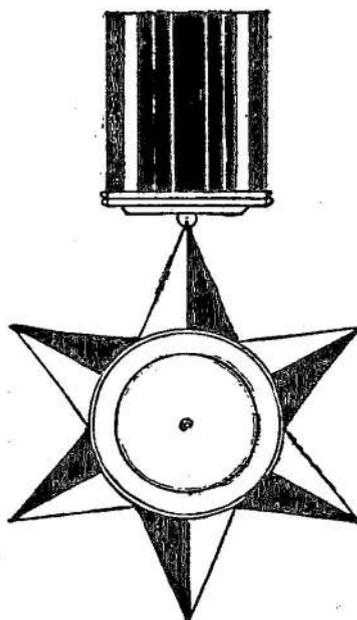
FIG 3

RIVER BENUE STAR

OBVERSE

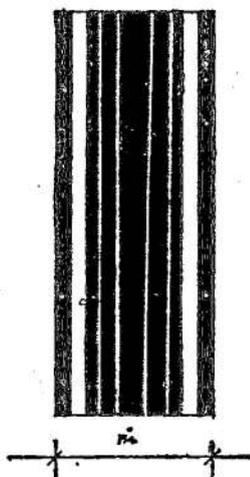


REVERSE



DIAMETER OF CIRCLE — 1 1/4"  
METAL — SILVER COATED

RIBBON



WIDTH — 1 1/4"  
COLOURS — { GREEN WHITE GREEN — NIG. NAT. COLOUR  
                          { BLACK — BATTLE COLOUR  
                          { RED — ARMED FORCES

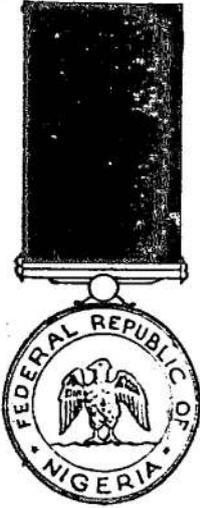
As is described in the warrant

THE NIGERIAN EAGLE

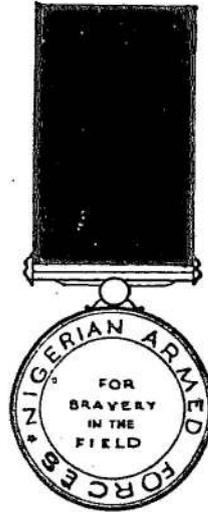
Fig. 4.

THE NIGERIAN EAGLE

OBVERSE



REVERSE

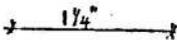


DIAMETER OF CIRCLE  $\frac{3}{4}$ "  
METAL ----- GOLD PLATED

RIBBON



WIDTH -----  $\frac{1}{4}$ "  
COLOURS ----- SHINNY BLACK



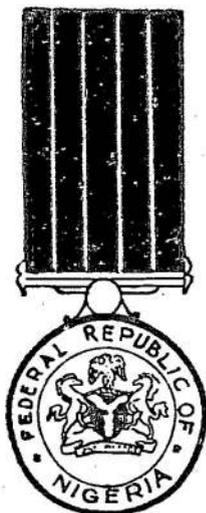
As is described in the warrant

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Fig 5

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

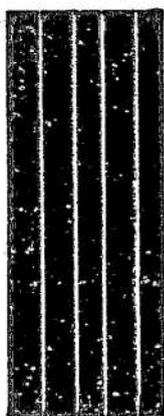
OBVERSE



REVERSE



DIAMETER OF CIRCLE =  $\frac{3}{4}$ "  
METAL ..... BRONZE



WIDTH .....  $1\frac{1}{4}$ "  
COLOURS ..... BLUE . RED & BLACK

$1\frac{1}{4}$ "

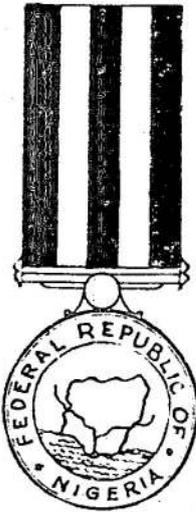
As is described in the warrant

LOYAL SERVICE AND GOOD  
CONDUCT MEDAL

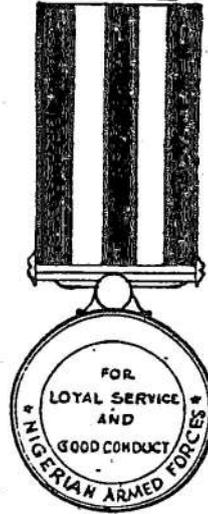
Fig. 6

LOYAL SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT  
MEDAL

OBVERSE



REVERSE



DIAMETER OF CIRCLE =  $\frac{5}{8}$ "  
METAL ----- SILVER FINISH

NOTE:-  
THE RECIPIENT'S NUMBER  
RANK AND NAME, ROUNDED OFF  
OF THE PERIPHERY.



WIDTH -----  $\frac{1}{4}$ "  
COLOURS ----- { BLUE RED WHITE  
AND SKY COLOUR.

$\frac{1}{4}$ "

As is described in the warrant

THE FORCES SERVICE STAR

Fig. 7

FORCES SERVICE STAR

OBVERSE



REVERSE



DIAMETER OF CIRCLE  $\frac{3}{4}$ "  
 METAL ..... NICKEL



1 1/8"

WIDTH ----- 1 1/8"  
COLOURS ----- { BLUE, GREEN,  
 WHITE, GREEN, BLUE

As is described in the warrant