

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP : 0730 HRS, 2 MAY

Port Stanley Airport

1. Vulcan aircraft attacked the airfield during the night of 30 April. At dawn on 1 May, Sea Harriers made further attacks. The operations were successful.
2. Following Argentine attacks in the TEZ on the British Task Force, an Argentine Mirage and a Canberra bomber were shot down. HM Ships involved sustained minor splinter damage. There was no loss of British aircraft or any serious British casualties.
3. Reports indicate that the Argentines may have shot down one of their own Mirage aircraft.
4. A naval bombardment of the airfield at Port Stanley also took place during the day. Relevant MOD press statements attached.

President Galtieri's Speech

5. General Galtieri finally addressed the Argentine people on national radio and television at 0249 GMT. The speech had originally been announced for 0100 hrs GMT). He said intimidation and threats had been used against Argentina which had the understanding of the Non-Aligned countries. There was no other way of replying to the British use of force than replying with force. Argentina had tried to get conciliation and peace by every means possible.

Total Exclusion Zone

6. There are reports that some Eastern European fishing vessels were still in the TEZ on 1 May. Telegrams have been sent to our Embassies in the countries involved.

United States

7. The Secretary of State and Sir Nicholas Henderson are seeing Mr Haig at about 14.30 (BST) today. Mr Reagan said that the attack on Port Stanley airfield came as a surprise to the United States.

Canada

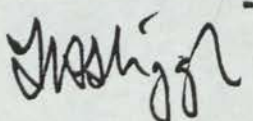
8. Mr MacQuigan at an interview in his constituency also said the attack had been a complete surprise and that he only learned of 'these things' from the newspapers.

Cuba

9. Rumours are circulating in Havana of a further Cuban aircraft encountering difficulties with Brazil to transit to Buenos Aires.

Japan

10. The international press reported that the Japanese Government had imposed economic sanctions against Argentina. The Japanese Embassy in Buenos Aires said this was unfounded and false.



2 May 1982

T H Steggle
Emergency Unit

BOMBING OF PORT STANLEY AIRPORT

The MOD have issued the following press statement am.
1 May:

'We have been enforcing the Total Exclusion Zone since Noon London time on Friday, 30 April in exercise of the right of self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. The notice issued on 28 April made it clear that after 48 hours' warning the airport would be closed and that any aircraft on the ground would be liable to attack. Early this morning British aircraft took action to enforce the Total Exclusion Zone and to deny the Argentines the use of the airstrip at Port Stanley. We are not yet able to give details but will do so as soon as we have authoritative information.'

The Ministry of Defence have issued the following further statement (pm. 1 May):-

'Vulcan aircraft refuelled by Victor Tankers attacked the Port Stanley air field during the night. Subsequently at dawn Sea Harriers carried out further attacks. Both operations were successful. All aircraft and personnel involved have now returned. There are no casualties. Further details of the operations will be given when available.'

STATEMENT ISSUED BY MOD AT 2145Z ON SATURDAY, 1 MAY 1982

'Further information about the air engagement is coming in. British aircraft have engaged a number of Argentine bombers, believed to be Canberras, and have shot at least one down and damaged another.'

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE STATEMENT ISSUED 10.15 PM, SATURDAY
1 MAY 1982

'A report has been received from the Task Force that an air engagement took place this evening within the TEZ between British Sea Harriers and Argentine Mirages. One Mirage was shot down. There are no reports of damage to British aircraft.'

TEXT OF MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PRESS STATEMENT MADE AT 00.15 HOURS
ON 2 MAY 1982

'Throughout the later part of the day elements of the British Task Force off the Falkland Islands and within the Total Exclusion Zone have been subject to attacks by Argentine fighter and bomber aircraft. The Task Force Commander took the necessary defensive measures and RN Sea Harriers engaged Argentine Mirage and Canberra aircraft off the Falklands. We can confirm that one

/Argentine

Argentine Mirage fighter and one Argentine Canberra bomber have been shot down. A number of Argentine aircraft also sustained serious damage. Reports indicate that the Argentines may have shot down one of their own Mirage aircraft. There have been no losses of British aircraft.

A naval bombardment of the airfield at Port Stanley also took place during the day.

We can categorically deny reports that a British ship has been seriously damaged. HM ships involved only sustained minor splinter damage. There have been no reports of serious casualties among British Servicemen.'