

2038/1/2

SITUATION REPORT FOR OPERATION SUTTON AS AT 231900A MAY

1. There have been no official reports of contact with Argentine forces ashore in the Falkland Islands since the last situation report at 1100A today.
2. Before dawn this morning, the Falkland Island Company Vessel MONSUNEN which was located by a Harrier yesterday afternoon, was intercepted by a ship of the Task Force close to the southern shore of East Falkland. The ship fired starshell to illuminate the vessel which was run aground and abandoned by her crew. There are no reports of any casualties.
3. Sea Harriers on combat air patrol over the Falkland Sound sighted three Argentinian helicopters proceeding south along the western shore of the Sound in the vicinity of Shag Cove. The Sea Harriers attacked causing the leading helicopter, a Puma, to crash into the hillside and explode, a Bell helicopter landed but was set on fire by gunfire and the third, another Puma, was engaged on the ground but damage was not assessed.
4. At 1345 local time two A4 aircraft approached our ships in San Carlos Water, no bombs were seen to be released and one A4 was shot down by ANTELOPE. In the second wave ANTELOPE was hit by an unexploded bomb and it is thought that one A4 may have hit ANTELOPE's mast and may have ditched subsequently. Casualties in ANTELOPE are as yet unknown.
5. At 1412 local time two waves of Mirage aircraft attacked our ships in the Sound. BROADSWORD's Seawolf accounted for 1; ANTELOPE and PLYMOUTH accounted for another with 20 mm guns and 1 further Mirage possibly splashed. In a simultaneous raid Sea Harriers on combat air patrol splashed 2 Mirage.
6. There have been no reports of any attacks on the Carrier Battle Group.