

MOD statement

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During the early afternoon in the Falkland Islands the Argentine Air Force launched a number of raids on ships of the Task Force in San Carlos Waters. The aircraft were engaged by missiles from surface vessels, shore-based Rapier and by Sea Harriers. Five Mirage and one Sky Hawk are known to have been shot down; a further one Mirage and two Sky Hawks were probably shot down.

During these attacks one of our frigates sustained some damage. No reports on the extent of the damage have been received, nor have we any indication of casualties. We have had no reports of other damage to British ships or aircraft.

In a separate incident earlier, Sea Harriers from the Task Force on routine patrol saw two Argentine Puma and one Bell helicopters in the Falkland Sound just off the coast of West Falkland. The Harriers attacked and one Puma exploded; the Bell helicopter landed but was seen to be on fire and the second Puma may have been damaged.

We have no reports of further action at present.

Ministry of Defence
23 May 1982