

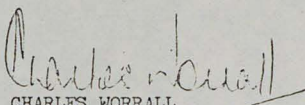
CASUALTY REPORTING

PR Line From DS5

"It is important to dispel any misunderstanding that may persist over the naval casualty reporting procedure that was followed when HMS SHEFFIELD was attacked last Tuesday.

The Navy has a comprehensive casualty reporting organisation centered in Portsmouth with satellite casualty action cells in other naval ports. This organisation worked well in the case of SHEFFIELD and by the early hours of Wednesday morning 248 families had been correctly informed that their next of kin were safe. Due to the distance involved, the obvious communications time lag and the operational situation, it took some hours longer to determine the exact numbers of missing men and a further period of hours to establish their fate. The families of the missing men could therefore not be given positive information until this process had been completed.

Finally, and most regrettably, in 3 cases, incorrect messages were transmitted from the casualty action cells. Those unfortunate mistakes were due solely to human error and every effort was made to rectify the situation in each case as soon as was possible."


CHARLES WORRALL
9.4.82 1330

Source:
DS5 - John Day