

HMS SHEFFIELD SURVIVORS

Survivors from HMS SHEFFIELD are presently embarked in other ships of the Task Force. They will be brought home to UK as soon as opportunities arise and re-united with their families as soon as possible. Timing, however, cannot yet be confirmed.

All survivors will be given leave on arrival in UK and during the return journey they will be asked about their preferences for future appointments.

On completion of leave they will return to their Base Port Depots for kitting out before proceeding to their next appointments and drafts.

PRESS STATEMENT - 8 MAY 1982 NOON

There are no reports of any operational contacts within the last 24 hours. The Task Force continues its patrols to maintain the Total Exclusion Zone. The weather in the area is fog with extensive cloud cover, visibility low.

PRESS STATEMENT - 8TH MAY 1982 NOON

I would like to say a few words about Ascension Island. This very small British dependency in the middle of the Atlantic is an important staging and supply post for our Task Force in the South Atlantic. A large number of ships -- Royal Navy and civilian -- have as you would expect converged on this Island and supplies and stores are continuously being ferried ashore by helicopter. The Island itself has been used for a number of exercises by Royal Marines and by the 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment disembarked from their ships. The RAF has used the Island as a staging post. VC10s and Hercules have made sorties there and I would like to draw your attention in particular to the recent flight by RAF Harriers from the UK which I announced yesterday. Their landing on Ascension from the UK involved a full 9 hour flight with air-to-air refuelling. This is a record for the Harrier. As you can imagine, Ascension Island is now a very busy place. A tented town has quickly grown up with more than a thousand servicemen engaged on a wide variety of essential duties.

I would also like to say a few words about the delivery of mail to those on the Task Force. Mail posted with the name of the ship and the address British Forces Post Office 666 will arrive in the first place on Ascension Island within 2 days of posting. From there it is now on an opportunity basis taken by sea or air to the fleet. We are at present setting up a more regular shuttle service which should mean that mail to and from the fleet will take only about 2 weeks to be delivered and sometimes considerably less.

FALKLAND ISLANDS -- MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HMS SHEFFIELD VICTIMS

BACKGROUND:

1. The Mayor of Sheffield is arranging a memorial service for the victims of the attack on HMS SHEFFIELD, to be held on May 9. This is not a Royal Navy occasion, but the Minister (Armed Forces) Mr. ~~Blaker~~^{Blaker} Blaker, accompanied by Mrs. Blaker and four senior Naval officers are expected to attend.
2. The Royal Navy only arranges memorial services at the specific request of the next of kin involved. It is anticipated that, following such a request, an RN memorial service will be held in Portsmouth in about two weeks time. This will be announced in due course, probably by CINCPACVHOME, to whom enquiries should be directed.

PR LINE:

3. The Royal Navy welcomes the memorial service for the survivors of HMS SHEFFIELD being arranged by the Mayor of Sheffield. This is not an RN occasion, but the Minister (Armed Forces) and a number of senior Naval officers are expected to attend.

4. IF PRESSED:

The RN holds memorial services at the request of the next of kin involved. Any official service for the victims of the attack on HMS SHEFFIELD will be announced in due course.

J F ALLAWAY
DPF(RAF)
7.5.82

Love
DSB

