

FALKLAND ISLANDS - HMS HECLA: RETURN OF BRITISH AND ARGENTINE WOUNDED

PR line:-

"HMS Hecla, a British Hospital Ship, is to arrive at Montevideo tomorrow morning (2.6.82). She is to disembark the 24 Argentine prisoners taken after the capture of the Argentine vessel "Narwal" on 9.5.82. They are to be released from British custody to the Government of Uruguay for onward return to Argentina.

While in British custody the prisoners have been well looked after and the injured have been receiving medical attention.

These arrangements were made under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross. We are grateful to the ICRC and to the Government of Uruguay for their assistance in this matter.

HMS Hecla is also taking 18 British wounded personnel (including 1 British civilian seaman) to Montevideo where they will be flown back to the UK on 3.6.82. None will need to be hospitalised in Montevideo.

Background (can be used)

There will be no press facility at Montevideo though, of course, there may be press opportunities later at Montevideo airport as British personnel pass through on their way to the UK.

It is planned that the British personnel will fly back to the UK (EZ) on an RAF

Vc10 on Wednesday, 3.6.82.

Stu Reed.

DCPO
0930, 1.6.82

Sources:

DS11
DS8
CCC
PS4
CGRM