

DUTY COMMANDER'S BRIEF - 0600A 17 April 1982

Follow  
40

A. OWN FORCES - ANNEX A FORCE TOTE

1. Warships of TU 317.8.1 are now at Ascension Island, although some RFAs have still to arrive. They are to be visited today by the Commander-in-Chief Fleet for briefing. TU 317.8.1 is expected to sail from Ascension on 18 April.
2. TU 317.8.2 carried out a RAS(S) with FORT AUSTIN last night and are making their way to a patrol area in position 40°S 40°W, where they should arrive on 20/21 April. FORT AUSTIN will rejoin TU 317.8.1.
3. TG 317.9 is now about 1800 miles south of Ascension Island and is on schedule.
4. TG 317.0 (the Amphibious Group) will arrive at Ascension Island at 191100Z with the exception of FEARLESS (COMAW) who arrives at 0800Z today for CINCFLEET's briefing. SIR TRISTRAM is at Ascension Island.
5. BLUE ROVER is west of Uphant. BRAMBLELEAF is west of Cape of Good Hope proceeding to support TU 317.8.2
6. TIDEPOOL is now expected to sail from Curacao at 171000Z and is due at Ascension on 24 April.
7. CANBERRA and ELK arrive at Freetown today for bunkers. This is likely to take up to 48 hours.
8. Tankers TUFT  
BRITISH ESK is west of Mauritania (ETA Ascension 21200Z)  
BRITISH TAY is south of the Canaries (ETA Ascension 221200Z)  
BRITISH TAMAR is west of Lisbon (ETA Ascension 26200Z)
9. UGANDA (Hospital ship) is fitting out in Gibraltar ETD 19 April.
10. STENNA SEA SPREAD (Forward Repair ship) sailed Portsmouth 162300Z. Due in Ascension 28 April.
11. Tugs  
TYPHOON is at Ascension  
SALVAGEMAN is west of Dakar  
IRISHMAN is south of the Canaries  
YORKSHIREMAN is 300 miles west of Cape St Vincent.
12. NORLAND (Troopship) arrives at Hull pm today, and is requisitioned from that time.

B. ARGENTINIAN FORCES

1. Since the last report, both T 42s and SMs are assessed to be at sea.
2. 25 DE MAYO (CVs) and BELGRANO (CC) NW of MEZ.
3. 2 x T42 and 1FF (probably GRANVILLE) at sea vicinity of Puerto Belgrano.



4. 1 unidentified destroyer at sea vicinity PB.

5. SMs

SS (209) SALTA - operating off PB

SS (209) SAN LUIS - on passage to patrol area north of MEZ

SS (Guppy) SANTA FE - at sea, position unknown.

SS (Guppy) SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO - Mar del Plata (U/S)

6. Port Stanley:

Bahia Buen Suceso

Cabo San Antonio

2 x Coastal Patrol craft

2 Merships.

7. Remainder thought to be in harbour.

8. Argentinians appear to be having difficulty in erecting a TPS 43 radar at Stanley in prevailing high winds.

C. OPDEFS

1. INVINCIBLE - Starboard coupling Opdef has now been rectified and INVINCIBLE has achieved speeds in excess of 25 knots.

2. COVENTRY, GLASGOW and ARROW remain limited in speed to 21 knots by Olympus Eng defects.

3. No other significant Opdefs.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 848 Squadron is reforming at VL with 12 Wessex 5. It will be at 24 hours notice to deploy from 19 April.

2. Missing RMs No firm news. Swiss Ambassador in BA has been told that they "were all probably onboard a warship whose position the Argentinian Navy have refused to give". They may now be in Comodoro Rivadavia.

3. A third Nimrod Mk 2 departed for Ascension late pm 16 April, relieving a Nimrod Mk 1. The RAF Harriers are making good progress towards obtaining Ski-jump CA release.

4. Journalists are not being allowed to land at Ascension Island. This is though by CPR likely to lead to some frustration amongst travelling press.

5. 2 Para are at 72 hours notice from 170900Z. 5 Infantry Brigade will be trained at Sennybridge from 22 - 27 April.



STOP PRESS - OPDEFS (LATE CHANGE)

Department of the Controller  
Royal Palace  
Ministry of Defence  
Old Admiralty Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1

39

Add to list of significant opdefs:

BROADSWORD

LYNX AOG

Spares in course of issue

YARMOUTH

4.5" Mk 6 OOA

3 days to repair (stores on board)

ALACRITY )

No Agouti

Docking Job

ANTELOPE )

GLASGOW

Engine opdef rectified

1. A SITREP on the major events concerning the Aspidochelone Force since the Falkland Islands Operation was ordered on 2 April 1982, to cover events up until midnight on 15 April 1982.

2. disseminated at all levels. It is to be known, but the security classification should be retained. The details of this operation should be stressed to all ranks. Security breaches could cause loss of life.

3. A future SITREP will be forwarded in due course.

4. Headquarters are requested to pass copies of this SITREP and this covering letter to Units (not committed to the operation) and Unit rear parties.

1000  
1000  
1000  
1000