

SECRET



Secretary of State

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D H Gillmore

Thank you

J.H.D. 24/5

Private Secretary ✓

cc PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Payne, Emergency Unit
Mr Gregory-Hood, Emergency Unit

FALKLAND ISLANDS: MILITARY SITUATION REPORT 9 AM, 22 MAY

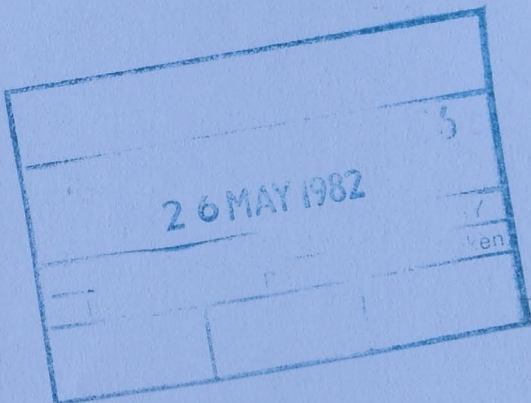
1. I submit:

- A (a) this morning's report from the MOD on our own forces;
- B (b) the MOD Intelligence Summaries Nos 95 and 96.

2. MOD have reported that HMS ARDENT, badly damaged in yesterday's air attacks, has sunk. The number of casualties is unknown, but it is believed that most of the crew were able to abandon ship. There is no further news on HMS ARGONAUT, also badly damaged in yesterday's air attacks. The ship is at anchor in San Carlos water; its engines are damaged but its air defence systems are apparently intact.

3. The latest report of Argentine air losses are as follows:

- 9 Mirage
- 7 A4 Skyhawk
- 2 Puccara
- 1 Chinook (helo)
- 1 Puma (helo)
- 2 Huey (helo).



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1 a. Own Forces

(1) In early hours of 21 May the Amphibious Force entered Falkland Sound from the North. Troops in INTREPID, FEARLESS, MV NORLAND, CANBERRA and STROMNESS located by PLYMOUTH, YARMOUTH, ANTRIM, BRILLIAN, ARDENT, ARGONAUT and BROADSWORD.

(2) Initial landing by SBS from ANTRIM after bombardment by ANTRIM of ARG positions on Fanning Head. NGS reduced enemy from estimated 40 to 14 who quickly surrendered to 3 SBS after short fire fight.

(3) Diversionary Raid by D Sqn SAS on Goose Green/Darwin mounted in early hours. Full report awaited but one Pucara shot down by Stinger.

(4) Main Landings by 3 Cdo Bde and Para Bns on Eastern and Western Shores of San Carlos Sound began at 0740Z (0440 local) by landing craft (night) and helo (down) on 4 beaches.

- Ajax Bay 45 Cdo
- San Carlos Settlement 40 Cdo and 2 Para
- Port San Carlos Settlement 3 Para

Landings unopposed and complete by 1200Z with surrounding high ground secure. D Sqn has joined 3 Para.

(5) T Bty (Rapier) and 4 Lt Btys flown ashore. Rapier not yet in action (212550A). Heavy equipment being landed from LSLs.

(6) HQ 3 Cdo Bde remains in FEARLESS; 42 Cdo remains on ships as reserve in San Carlos Water.

(7) Harrier GR5 attacked Arg helos on ground near Port Stanley during the forenoon; one Chinook, one Puma destroyed.

(8) At 1350Z (1050 local) the Arg Air Force began attacks on ships in San Carlos Water and units of Task Force standing off. Effects:

- ANTRIM: Sea Slug, stbd Sea Cat and 992 out of action; unexploded bomb aft (EOD team on board). Helo riddled - fuel tank ruptured. Extensive splinter damage above water line. Major fire main breaches and hydraulic leaks after end Sea Slug magazine. Fires extinguished.
- ARGONAUT severely damaged by 2 bombs. Remains intact; in cover at end of San Carlos Bay without engines.

- BROADSWORD - splinter damage, one Sea Wolf System u/s.
- BRILLIANT - minor damage.

(9) Losses

1 x GR3, 2 x Gazelle helos, 1 x SK prior to landing.

(10) Own Casualties

ARDENT. Not known.

ARGONAUT. 2 missing presumed dead (not confirmed),
1 x VS1, 2 x SI.

BROADSWORD. 1 x SI, 12 minor shrapnel, 1 acute battle neurosis.

ANTRIM. 2 x VS1, 6 minor shrapnel.

BRILLIANT. 3 x VS1.

TOTAL RN: 2 presumed dead, 28 wounded.

RM: 3 killed when the 2 Gazelles were hit. NOK being informed.

b. Deployment of Surface Forces (North to South)

- (1) QE2. Transfers complete. Sails NSI today.
- (2) Bristol Group. 1500 nm NE of TEZ. ETA TEZ 25 May. RAS 241800Z with APPLE LEAF.
- (3) MCM Group. 800 nm NE TEZ. ETA holding area 500 nm ENE of TEZ 24 May.
- (4) EXETER. Arrived TEZ.
- (5) ANTELOPE. Arrived TEZ 212100Z.
- (6) AMBUSCADE. Arrived TEZ 1530Z today.
- (7) Battle Group. In support of Amphibious Group.
- (8) HYDRA, HECLA AND UGANDA to new holding position North of TEZ at 1500 today.

c. Air

- (1) Nimrod. Long range sortie completed at 211230Z. One possible warship contact in significant position. Further L/R sortie airborne from 212259Z to be on task off Argentine coast (Bahia Blanca) by 220700Z.
- (2) Victor. 16 currently at ASI.
- (3) Vulcan. 1 remains ASI.

2. CTF's Intentions (As at 212330A)

a. Operational Area.

- (1) Those ships that are able to leave Falkland Sound will rejoin carriers to East. However, not confirmed that this has happened.
- (2) Remainder including FEARLESS to move into San Carlos Water for protection against air attack.
- (3) Consolidate beachhead; off-load echelons and stores. Probe forward with screen forces.

b. Air

- (1) Surface surveillance within 400 nm ASI.
- (2) Long range Hercules drop to ANTELOPE.