

DUTY COMMANDER's BRIEF - 260700A MAY

OPERATIONS

1. HMS COVENTRY was hit in a bombing raid by three ALs at 1827Z last night and was reported sinking at 1845Z with her consort BROADSWORD picking up survivors. BROADSWORD was also hit by a bomb which passed through her flight deck and out via ships side without detonating. BROADSWORD's initial damage report states her Lynx badly damaged and some flooding from fractured firemain. No casualties reported in BROADSWORD. Both ships were on station approx 10 nm north of Falkland Sound.
2. At 1941Z INVINCIBLE reported 2 Super Etendards closing from approx 115nm NE Port Stanley. Exocet launch (2 missiles) was detected. At missile launch aircraft were at approx 28nm from the Battle Group. The Exocets were seen by HERMES and BRILLIANT to strike ATLANTIC CONVEYOR on the STBD quarter. She took fire, lost all power and was reported abandoning ship at 2040Z. 1 Chinook was recovered to HERMES. Other ships assisting to pick up survivors. CONVEYOR was intended to enter the AOA last night with EUROPIC FERRY, escorted by ALACRITY.
3. No details of casualties in either incident are yet available.
4. During yesterday afternoon 2 Shar and 4 GR3 repeated the attack on Stanley airfield with 1000lb bombs. A further attack is scheduled pm today.
5. A possible Pucara was destroyed by COVENTRY Seadart at 1305Z yesterday, and three ALs by COVENTRY Seadart, YARMOUTH Seacat and Rapier between 1530Z and 1600Z. *[See strip press]*
6. Details of actions are summarised in the attached action incident tote.
7. Operations ashore are covered in the CGRM landing force sitrep.
8. The fires reported in SIR LANCELOT are now out. No further information on VXBs has been reported.

OWN FORCES

9. Battle Group The Battle Group remains approx 80nm East of the Falklands providing land strike, and CAP in support of the AOA and Amphib Group. ARROW is in San Carlos Bay. ALACRITY was scheduled to escort A. CONVEYOR and EUROPIC FERRY into the AOA last night leaving after partial unload tonight.
10. Amphibious Group FEARLESS, INTREPID, PLYMOUTH, ARGONAUT, SIR LANCELOT, SIR GALAHAD, SIR GERAINTE and SIR TRISTRAM remain in the AOA. STROMNESS, RESOURCE, FORT AUSTIN, TIDEPOOL and SIR BEDIVERE were conveyed out escorted by YARMOUTH last night.
11. BRISTOL Group All units are now inside the TEZ according to latest Fleet sitrep, except PENELOPE and MINERVA who should cross the TEZ at 0800Z today, and CARDIFF lagging remainder following an airdrop (see para 22).
12. GLASGOW, ANTRIM and STENA SEASPREAD are now outside the TEZ.

Enc. *cc: Dec 24*

ENCL
24

OTHER MOVEMENTS

13. LEEDS CASTLE is reported en route to Ascension from the TEZ.
14. PLUMLEAF has storm damage to her RAS RIGS and is carrying out repairs approx 1000nm NE of TEZ.
15. QE2 arrives South Georgia pm 27 May (Thursday)
16. Ascension ENGADINE sails South from ASI today. BRITISH AVON with LT CDR ASTIZ is en route UK. BAYLEAF awaiting stores.
17. MCMV's Are en route to South Georgia. ETA pm today. Also at ~~SG~~: ENDURANCE, BLUE ROVER, TYPHOON, IRIS.
18. TUGS SALVAGEMEN, IRISHMAN, YORKSHIREMAN on Eastern edge TEZ.
19. RFAs OLNA and FORT GRANGE continue progress South.
20. Hospital Ships UGANDA and HYDRA, HECLA, and HERALD are on station in their holding area.
21. SSN's Continue on patrol or in transit as ordered.
22. Long range Nimrod DNCO returned to ASI 0755Z yesterday with Hydraulic System snags. Further sortie took off approx 2200Z last night. The 'local' ASI Nimrod located an unregistered vessel, the "~~IDEAL~~" west of Ascension. A Phantom will update the vessel today. Another Phantom flew out to ASI from UK today. Hercules airdrop to CARDIFF completed yesterday at 1730Z with a further long range sortie today to MINERVA and PENELOPE after they reach the TEZ.

STUFT

23. AVELONA STAR (9784 gvt) Survey in Antwerp as stores support ship. ETA Portsmouth 30 May.
24. GA WALKER (18744 gvt) Already TUFT, but now to be used as Auxiliary Tanker from freighting duties.
25. OPDEFs

Significant OPDEFs are listed in the attached list. (ARGONAUT still has a UKB on board from most recent info available from Fleet).

ENEMY FORCES

26. 25 DE MAYO still assessed in P Belgrano, as is the S/M SAN LUIS. 79.2 and 79.4 (Type 42 DDGs and A69 FFG Groups) are operating just offshore in the same area. 79.3 (ex-USA DDG's) is at sea off Rio Grande; S/M SALTA is thought to be operating offshore, but could have made ground to the North of the TEZ.
27. USSR The PRIMORYE AGI has not yet been updated since DUMBARTON CASTLE's sighting at 2325Z on 24th.

OTHER ITEMS

28. HMNZS CANTERBURY could be formally under CINCFLEET opcon by 27 May.
29. The shortage of Seacat missiles in the Task Force is causing concern. Ships in the AOA are expending up to one third of outfits daily. (317.0 251157Z and CINCFLEET 252022Z).
30. CINCFLEET latest casualty tote has been disted (CINCFLEET I9F/W5F 251833Z).
31. SEA KING AIRCREW IN CHILE Embassy reports that 3 aircrew located alive and well by Chilean authorities. Repatriation arrangements are in hand. (PCO 252322Z).

WEATHER

32. Latest weather synopsis is attached.

STOP PRESS

ARG AIR LOSSES OVER LAST 24 HRS. SEPARATE ASSESSMENT BY DI3(AIR)
 IS 4 X A4 AND 1 A'MALCHI. 317.0 ASSES (SITEP 24) THAT
 MAX OF 3 A4 + 1 PULARA WERE JET DOWN. PULARA V. A'MALCHI
 TO BE DEBATED BUT DI3(AIR) HAVE COLLATERAL TO SUPPORT LATTER.
 ADDITIONAL A4 PROBABLY DUE TO MISREADING A BROADSWORD
 AMP REPORT AS A SEPARATE ENGAGEMENT.

SECRET

TIME	REPORT REFERENCE	INCIDENT
01235Z	BROADSWORD 251244Z CTG 317.0 251246Z	A4 Circling North Approaches Falkland Sound. Splashed by COVENTRY's SEADART.
01305Z	BROADSWORD 251305Z	Amplification of earlier report suggests that A4 previously reported as splashed was more likely to be PUCARA or AEROMACCHI.
01435Z	BROADSWORD 251537Z	A4 heading West crossing Sound splashed by Seadart. (COVENTRY)
AMPLIFIED of Previous Reports	BROADSWORD 251600Z	2 A4 crossed Sound from SE. One splashed in Sound, One hit by Seadart.
01445Z	HERMES 251605Z	Attack carried out on Stanley airfield by 2 SHAR 2 4GR3 (18x1000lb). Another attack planned later today. Believed 2 x ROLAND fired without success.
about noon REF TO ACTION REPORT 4 BROADSWORD	TELECON COS/FLLEET/ACNS(0) 1655A	Attack on amphibious group about noon local by 2 A4s. FEARLESS was target, but was not hit. Both A4s reported splashed. One pilot ejected and landed on top of Bofors Crew in FEARLESS.
01900Z	BROADSWORD 251827Z	3 A4 attacked BROADSWORD and COVENTRY. Both hit by bombs. COVENTRY reported sinking. BROADSWORD has damaged FLT deck/Lynx, some firemain flooding otherwise operational.
02000Z	INVINCIBLE 251941Z	2 Super Etendards heading SE (detected 115nm NE Stanley). Low raid Exocet detected. (Range 28nm at weapon release).
02115Z	CTG 317.8 252050Z (AMP on INVINCIBLE)	Exocet attack: 2 missiles struck ATLANTIC CONVEYOR - on fire aft. Ship abandoned as fire spread towards bomb stowage. 1 Chinook recovering to HERMES.
		For: 2, prob 3 x A4 1 x Pucara Runway Damage Stanley Against: BROADSWORD LYNX HMS COVENTRY ATLANTIC CONVEYOR Poss 3 Chinook/6 Wx 5 and CONVEYOR's cargo.

SECRET

OPERATION CORPORATE OPDEF TOTE

DTG

SHIP/UNIT	OPDEF/DATE	OPERATIONAL PENALTY ESDUR	REMARKS
ALACRITY	HULL CRACKS. FUEL CONTAMINATION. LYNX AOG. 182 U/S.	NO LYNX CAPABILITY FOR SURFACE SEARCH/STRIKE	-
ANDROMEDA	GWS 25.	NO SEAWOLF CAPABILITY	-
ANTRIM	STBD FEED PUMP. CRACKS 02/03 DECK. WESSEX DAMAGED. SEASLUG SYSTEM DAMAGED.	OUTSIDE TEST	REPAIRS IN COMPANY STENA SEASPREAD
ARGONAUT	UXB SEACAT MAG. PORT BLR AND BLR RM. TA.	IMMOBILIZED	REMAINING IN FAULCON SOUND
ARROW	HULL CRACKS. STBD OLY DEGRADED. STEERING GEAR DEGRADED.	WEATHER LIMITED	REMAINING IN SAN CARLOS INLET
AVENGER	LYNX AOG.	NO LYNX CAPABILITY	-
BRILLIANT	EXOCET & SONAR 2016 U/S. NO 182. SPLINTER DAMAGE. FWD SEAWOLF & CAAS JURY RICCED.	LIMITED CAPABILITY ESPEC. SEAWOLF	-
BROADSWORD	BOMB HOLES FLT DECK & SHIP SIDE. LYNX DAMAGED.. AFT GWS 25 TRACKER DEGRADED. 182 U/S.	NO LYNX CAPABILITY LIMITED SEAWOLF	FURTHER INFO AWAITED
EXETER	992 RADAR DEGRADED.	DEGRADED DETECTION PERFORMANCE	
GLAMORGAN	K TURBO ALT/667 I BAND/PORT SEACAT U/S.	-	-
GLASGOW	BOTH TYNES/PORT OLY/1 DIESEL GEN/1 HP AIR COMP BOMB DAMAGE.	OUTSIDE TEST	REPAIRS IN COMPANY STENA SEASPREAD
HERALD	WASP AOG.	AIRLIFT OF CASEVACS	-
NORHELLA	MAIN SHAFT DRIVEN GEN U/S.	AUX GEN. ONLY	
TYPHOON	1 MAIN ENGINE ONLY.	LIMITED TOW CAPABILITY	
PLUMLEAF	STORM DAMAGE TO RIGS.	RAS CAPABILITY EXCEPT ASPEN.	
OLMEDA	PROLE JACKSTAY RIG.	DERRICK RIG ONLY	
REGENT	NO 1 AND 2 RAS RIGS.	2 RIGS REMAINING	SHIPS STAFF CAPABILITY 0205

SECRET

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SECRET

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OWN FORCES 260600Z

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15

BALDER
LONDON
WIMPEY
SEA HORSE

BRITISH AVON

AT ASCENSION

DUNBAR
TONCASTLE
BAYLEAF
ENGADINE
ALVEGIA
BRITISHESK
BRITISH TAMAR

15

A. HOSPITAL HOLDING AREA

UCIANDA
HECLA
HYDRA
HERALD

B. VIC 498 53W

AUTUM
GLASGOW
STENA SEASREAD
BRITISH DART
BRITISH TAY

C. HOLDING AREA 4830S 4930W

YORKSHIREMAN
IRISHMAN
SALVAGEMAN

SHELLEBURNIA

NAS OP AREA 30
ANCO CHARGER
LYCAON

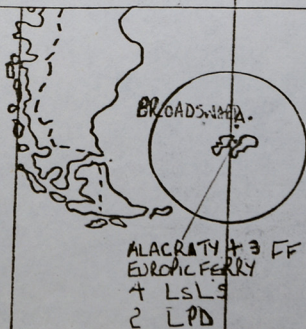
ATLANTIC
CAUSEWAY

BALTIC/NORDIC FERRY
FORT GRANGE

PLUMLEAF

QEZ

45



OLNA
TIDESPRING
B. MINERVA
PENELOPE
PEARLEAF/TRENT
BRITISH WYE
TUS17-8.4
TUS17-8.6
TUS17-8.1
TUS17-8.2
TUS17-0.3
TUS17-9
TYPHOON
IRIS
SAXONIA

SECRET

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