

UNITY COMMANDER'S BRIEF - 290600A APRIL

ENCLOSURE
No. 91

A. GENERAL

1. Total Exclusion Zone (TEZ), 200nm round the Falkland Islands, was promulgated in MODUK 281128Z to take effect from 301100Z April. This was passed to the Argentines by the Swiss Govt.

B. OWN FORCES

2. The Battle Group is making about 7kts in heavy weather, and is now approx 500nm from the TEZ, most likely arriving at the TEZ on 2 May in present conditions. FORT AUSTIN, steaming to join the BG, is also slowed by weather now 1300nm NE of TEZ and also due at the TEZ on 2 May.

3. BRILLIANT and PLYMOUTH have left the ANTRIM Group to RV with the BG 291600Z (weather permitting) and transfer SBS/SAS troops. PLYMOUTH will then return to S Georgia to act as guardship, releasing ANTRIM and TIDESPRING in the next few days, to take the Argentine POWs, civilians (including 2 Chileans and 2 Uruguayans) and BAS parties to Ascension. All BAS and TV personnel have been contacted and accounted for; the PM has been reassured that all are safe and well.

4. The Amphibious Group is starting to sail in staggered groups from ASI. ANTELOPE, PEARLEAF and LSLs pm today; FEARLESS, CANBERRA and ELK remain.

5. The ARGONAUT Group has arrived at ASI.

6. AMBUSCADE ETD Gibraltar 3 May should arrive ASI 10 May to take up guardship duties.

7. UGANDA at ASI with shortage of water awaits arrival of FORT TORONTO (ETA 291800Z) and will sail on completion of top-up.

8. INTREPID (ETA ASI 5 May) and NORLAND (ETA ASI 6/7 May) are 190nm NE of Madeira.

9. EUROPIC FERRY and ATLANTIC CONVEYOR (the 'Harrier Carrier') should arrive ASI 5 May.

10. Detailed information on all CORPORATE naval units, is in the attached Force Tote.

11. AIR

a. 11 Victor (MRR/PR) aircraft now on ASI.

b. 2 Vulcans ready to leave for ASI.

c. 3 Nimrods on ASI.

2 MRR sorties yesterday 1 vs RIO DE LA PLATA, 1 vs AGI PRIMOREYE.

124/B 10P

OPDEFS

12. a. ANTELOPE Lynx Compass - limited to VMX
 b. ANTRIM Port SEACAT. SCOT
 c. ARDENT 992 - Stabilisation
 d. ARGONAUT 182
 e. ARROW Stbd Olympus. 912 tempy repair. SEACAT - manual only.
 f. COVENTRY Stbd Olympus - emerg only. 182. 965 - emerg only.
 g. GLAMORGAN 966, 992 - tempy repairs.
 h. SHEFFIELD 182
 i. YARMOUTH 182 until daylight.
 j. BRAMBEELEAF)
 k. TIDESPIRNG) Fuel tanks contaminated.
 l. SIR LANCELOT Port 20 ton crane limitation
 m. SIR TRISTRAM Unable to code/decode special handling traffic.

D. ARGENTINE FORCES

13. The Carrier 25 de Mayo is thought to have been in Puerto Belgrano during the last 48 hours; now expected back in Area Romeo by 291200Z.
14. Other units of TGs 79.1 and 79.2 may also have been in port; all units should be in Area Romeo by 292359Z, refuelling en route.
15. HIPOLITO BOUCHARD remains in Puerto Descado attempting boiler repairs, whilst PIEDRA BUENA has probably steamed south to join GENERAL BELGRANO (79.3).
16. Nothing more has been heard of SAN LUIS and is probably nearing her patrol area Maria off E Falkland.
17. An update on SALTA is urgently being sought.
18. Argentine forces report that the mership RIO CARCARANA has evaded the blockade and made it into Port Stanley.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

19. There are adequate stocks of aviation fuel on ASI until 10 May at present consumption rates. USNS SEALIFT CARIBBEAN with 5.8m gallons has earliest ETA 081200Z. Next delivery by USNS AMERICAN EXPLORER ETA 17 May.
20. Total CORPORATE shipping now over 100 - 38 warships, 4 submarines, 22 RFAs and 41 STUFT.

F. WEATHER21. FALKLANDS

Anticyclone expected to be centred on Falklands area, creating sea fog or low cloud with rain or drizzle, but slowly clearing on Friday. Strong local gales again by Saturday.

SOUTH GEORGIA

Moderate wind, large amounts of cloud at all levels, clearing later. Average to heavy swell.