

(Reply (Ru)
ENCLOSURE
No. 57DUTY COMMANDER'S BRIEF - 0700A MAYGENERAL

1. Yesterday's further early morning bombing raid on Port Stanley airfield by a Vulcan from ASC was successful. However, during the Sea Harrier attack on Goose Green airfield in the afternoon, one SHAR was shot down by anti-aircraft fire and the pilot killed.

2. At 1412Z yesterday, SHEFFIELD was attacked by 2 low flying Super Etendards which fired 2 (or possibly 3) Exocet missiles. No warning was received despite an airborne CAP on the threat bearing. There was one hit amidships on the MCO and major fires broke out. Despite the efforts of the fire-fighting crews from several ships, the fire got out of control and the ship abandoned at 1800Z. All survivors were recovered and dispersed between HERMES, YARMOUTH and ARROW. 296 were onboard SHEFFIELD, 265 names have been reported but there appears to be some duplication. The figure of 31 unaccounted for is therefore suspect. Refining continues. At 2200 Z, SHEFFIELD was still afloat although ARROW has been ordered to sink her by gunfire if she stays afloat.

OWN FORCES

3. The Battle Group is operating approx 70nm SE of Port Stanley

4. The Amphibious Groups. ANTELOPE group, SOA 10kts, is 1100nm SW of Ascension. Approaching ASC, are ATLANTIC CONVEYOR due this morning and INTREPID this afternoon; EUROPIC FERRY and NORLAND, 600nm away, are due tomorrow. These and the main FEARLESS group still have ETD 7 May.

5. PLYMOUTH (now CTU 317.9) has APPLELEAF and ESK in company near the position for her RV with BLUE ROVER tomorrow, 450nm NW of South Georgia. O/C she will make best speed to South Georgia.

6. ANTRIM and TIDESPRING (now TU 317.8.5) are 800nm N of South Georgia en route for ASC ETA 11 May.

7. SSNs are in their designated operating areas with ONYX still transiting SW.

8. New STUFF

QE 2 has been taken up for transporting 5 Inf Bde, ETD 12 May, and WIMPEY SEA HORSE as a mooring vessel to deploy by 14 May. There are plans for STENA INSPECTOR as a Forward Support Ship; decision by 6 May.

9. Details of all surface units are shown in the Daily Force Tote.

OPDEFS

10. Significant changes to the OPDEF state are:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| a. BROADSWORD | No 182 capability, recurring probl |
| b. LEEDS CASTLE | 1 main engine; 50% power |
| c. SHEFFIELD | Action damage. |
| d. YARMOUTH | Port boiler leaking. Boiler Room Turbo alternator. |

AIR

11. In addition to the one Vulcan bombing sortie yesterday, there were 2 Nimrod sorties from ASC, 1 surveillance, 1 in Vulcan support.

12. There are 8 Sea Harriers at ASC. 5 GR 3 Harriers have also arrived, with 4 more expected today. Of these 9 GR 3s, 6 will be shipped to the TEZ in ATLANTIC CONVEYOR and 3 retained for Air Defence of ASC.

ENEMY FORCES

13. TG 79.1 and TG 79.4 were ordered to meet at Bahia Enganio at 050100Z, keeping close to the coast. This is 240nm N of their previous operating areas. The carrier is thought to have been close in shore recently and hence her aircraft have had restricted capability.

14. Destroyers PIEDRA BUENA and BOUCHARD both with defects, are still searching for GENERAL BELGRANO survivors. Patrol vessel GURRACHAGA is reported to be taking the 400 survivors rescued to USHUAIA. The BAHIA PARAISO (Hospital Ship?) is expected to join today.

15. The only possible SM contact was YARMOUTH's report of a SM(s) whilst collecting SHEFFIELD survivors.

STOP PRESS