

SECRET

CWG313 05/1941 125C4056

FOR CWC

IMMEDIATE/PRIORITY 051600Z MAY 82

FROM HMS INVINCIBLE  
TO CTF 317  
INFO CTG 317.8  
MODUK NAVY  
FONAC  
ROF3  
HMS HERMES

SECRET

SIC 19F/JUA

OPERATION CORPORATE

- A. CTF 317 19F/JUA 031111Z MAY 82 (FIGHTER TACTICS)  
B. HMS HERMES 19F/JUA 032330Z MAY 82 (NOTAL)(PROPOSE COORD RESPONSE)  
C. CTF 317 19F/JUA 041256Z MAY 82 (FIGHTER TACTICS URGENT REQUEST)  
1. FOUR AIR TO AIR ENGAGEMENTS AGAINST ARG MIRAGE 5 AND CANBERRA AIRCRAFT UNDERTAKEN BY THIS UNIT 1 MAY 82. TWO ENGAGEMENTS WERE SUCCESSFUL.  
2. SEA HARRIER V MIRAGE  
A. ARG FTES ON CAP TO WEST OF FALKLANDS. THEY OPERATED AS PAIRS AND

PAGE 2 RBDFFSIS 026 SECRET

PROBED TOWARDS SHAR CAP POSITIONS ATTEMPTING TO SEDUCE SHAR TO LONG RANGE FROM TASK GROUP. WHEN COMMITTED TO INTERCEPT UNDER PRECISE CONTROL OF FALKLAND BASED GCI RADAR (PROB AN/TPS 43) THEY APPROACH INTERCEPT POINT AT SUPERSONIC SPEED HIGH LEVEL (FL300 TO FL380). BEFORE INTERCEPTION IT APPEARS THEY DIVE TOWARDS GCI PREDICTED POINT OF INTERCEPT AND RELEASE THEIR WEAPONS HEAD ON. OF THE SEVEN MISSILES FIRED AT 801 NAS, SIX WERE RELEASED FROM A LOOK DOWN POSITION. POST FLIGHT ANALYSIS OF MISSILES AND MIRAGE DURING FLY THROUGH SUGGESTS THAT SEVERAL MISSILES WERE RELEASED WITHOUT MIRAGE PILOTS POSITIVELY ACQUIRING SHAR. ALSO BELIEVED ARG PILOTS RELEASING SIDEWINDER 9B OR MATRA MAGIC R550 MISSILES FROM HEAD-ON POSITIONS WITH NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS. AFTER FIRING, MIRAGES EXIT FIGHT IN STRAIGHT LINE AT HIGH SPEED.

- B. ENGAGEMENT 1. 2 SHAR VECTORED FOR TARGETS AT 45 MILES. FL150 CONTACT GAINED AT 8 MILES TARGET HIGH. TARGETS DIVED ON SHAR 1 MISSILE BEING RELEASED AT 4 MILES HEAD ON. MISSED BY 200 YDS. SECOND TARGET DESCENDED TO FL120, PULLED UP AND FIRED AT 2 MILES AS SHAR TURNED TOWARDS. MISSILE MISSED BY 30 YDS TARGETS FLEW THROUGH AND AND DEPARTED AT MAX SPEED  
C. ENGAGEMENT 2. 2 X SHAR CAP AT FL200 VECTORED FOR TARGETS AT APPROX

SECRET

112MM  
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PAGE 3 RDBFSIS 026 SECRET

50. APPROACHED HEAD ON. SHAR DESCENDED TO FL150 IN ATTEMPT TO LURE TARGETS LOWER. 3 MISSILES FIRED FROM HIGH LEVEL AT SHAR AND SEEN TO FALL WELL SHORT INFRONT SHAR. TARGETS NOT SEEN BY SHAR

D. ENGAGEMENT 3. 2 SHAR CAP VECTORED FOR HEAD ON ATTACK SHAR GAINED CONTACT AT 17 MILES FL150 SAME LEVEL. ARGS IN 1 MILE TRAIL 30 DEGREES DISPLACED. LEAD SHAR ATTEMPTED HEAD ON SHOT BUT NO ACQUISITION. ARG LDR FIRED HEAD ON. MISSED BY 300 YARDS. SHAR NO2 HOOKED IN BEHIND ARG NO2 FIRED GUNS FROM 1000 YDS - MISSED - AS ARGS ACCELERATED AWAY SHAR NO2 ACQUIRED WITH AIM 9L AND SPLASHED ARG NO2. SHAR LDR HAD NOW TURNED IN BEHIND ARG LDR AND FIRED AIM 9L FROM 1000 YDS AT ARG LDR WHO WAS IN STEEP DIVE FOR CLOUD AT 3000 FT. MISSILE PASSED VERY CLOSE TO TAIL AS AIRCRAFT ENTERED CLOUD. NO CLAIM. GOOD SHOT

3. SHAR VERSUS MIRAGE TACTICS

- A. ALWAYS FIGHT AS A PAIR EXCEPT IN IMC
- B. APPROACH HEAD ON IN WIDE BATTLE AT MAX SPEED
- C. BETWEEN 15 TO 10 MILES ONE AIRCRAFT RELEASES CHAFF HOTEL FROM AIRBRAKE (LOCAL MODIFICATION EMBODIES AFTER ADVICE DAEO 899) BOTH AIRCRAFT TURN OUTWARDS 30 DEGREES AND UNLOAD NOSE BELOW HORIZON
- D. TURN BACK INTO THREAT TO ACHIEVE QUARTER ATTACK FROM ONE SIDE AND BEAM ATTACK FROM OTHER SIDE

PAGE 4 RDBFSIS 026 SECRET

3. WATCH FOR MISSILE RELEASE AGAINST CHAFF H IF NOT IN RADAR CONTACT OR TALLY HO

F. PULL UP TO RELEASE AIM 9L. CROSS INWARDS TO MENACE SECOND BOGEY

4. SHAR VERSUS CANBERRA AND PUCARA

A. ENGAGEMENT 4. 3 ARG CANBERRA APPROACHED FORCE HIGH LOW PROFILE IN LOOSE LOW LEVEL STRIKE FORMATION. CONTACT LOST AT 110 MILES. SHAR LOCAP OF TWO AIRCRAFT VECTORED TOWARDS AT FL50 USING LOW LEVEL AUTONOMOUS SEARCH TECHNIQUE (2-5000 FEET WITH EDGE OF RADAR BEAM TOUCHING SURFACE). THREE TARGETS DETECTED 21 MILES AT APPROX 50 FEET STERN ATTACK BY FIRST SHAR WITH 2 AIM 9L FROM 250 FEET 1 MILE SPLASHED LEAD AIRCRAFT. SECOND MISSILE FIRED WHEN FIRST APPEARED TO MISS. HOWEVER DIRECT HIT OBSERVED AS SECOND MISSILE FIRED. SECOND CANBERRA JETTISONED ALL STORES AND WEAPONS AND BUSTERED. SECOND SHAR FIRED TWO AIM 9L FROM ASTERN AT 250 FEET 2 MILES RANGE AT THIRD CANBERRA. NO HITS SEEN

B. THREE PUCARA BOUNCED CLOSE INSHORE AT LOW LEVEL UNDER CLOUD. TARGETS IMMEDIATELY EVADED WILDLY. DROPPING ORDNANCE AND ENTERING CLOUD. TWO 30MM PASSES MADE AGAINST FLEETING TARGETS BETWEEN CLOUD COVER. NO CLAIMS

5. SHAR VERSUS CANBERRA TACTICS

PAGE 5 RDBFSIS 026 SECRET

A. AS IN PARA 3

B. SHOOTING DOWN SINGLE AIRCRAFT IS LIKELY TO CAUSE CHAOS AND DISSUADE ENEMY FROM PRESSING ON

6. WEAPONS

A. SIX SIDEWINDER AIM 9L FIRED. TWO SPLASHED TARGETS. ONE FIRED AS TARGET DESTROYED. TWO FIRED FROM VERY LOW LEVEL AT EXTREME RANGE. NO HITS OBSERVED. ONE FIRED FROM HIGH ANGLE OFF QUARTER ATTACK. MAY HAVE HIT A/C AS IT ENTERED CLOUD

B. SEVEN ENEMY MISSILES FIRED. TWO NEAR MISSES BUT NO SUCCESSES. ONE MISSILES FIRED INTO SUN AND OTHERS OUT OF RANGE

7. WEATHER

A. ENGAGEMENTS ONE, TWO AND THREE. WIND SSE 10-15 KTS SIX OCTAS

2000 FT. CLEAR ABOVE 4000 FT. VISIBILITY 15 MILES. AIR TEMP PLUS  
 AT SEA LEVEL  
 E. ENGAGEMENT 4. DUSK BELOW LOW CLOUD AT 2000 FT VISIBILITY 2-4 MILES  
 THEN AS IN PARA 7A  
 8. COMMENT  
 A. MOST ARG MISSILE RELEASES ASSESSED OUT OF RANGE  
 B. USE SINGLE FREQUENCY FOR ALL FIGHTERS JOINING COMBAT  
 C. ARG FIGHTERS NOT KEEN TO FIGHT AFTER MISSILE RELEASE. FIRE AND

PAGE 6 RBDFFSIS 026 S E C R E T

RUN TACTICS OBSERVED

D. ASSESSED MOST MIRAGE ONLY HAD APPROX 15 MINS ON TASK OVER  
 FALKLANDS

E. WHEN ROE IN FORCE SHORT OF GENERAL HOSTILITIES, SIMPLE  
 AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM REQUIRED. SINGLE ADJACENT LETTER CHALLENGE AND  
 REPLY USING RAMROD CODEWORD USED

BT

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