

Fc 982

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF	
DATE 7-5-82	COMS 1
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BRIEF FOR CDS - 7 MAY 82

OWN FORCES

1. Navy. No contact with Argentine forces was reported in the last 24 hours.

a. Battle Gp (Hermes). Continues to operate in the SE Section of TEZ giving high priority to ASW search. 238

(1) 2 SEA HARRIERS of 801 NAS (HMS INVINCIBLE) detached from CAP stations to investigate a report by a helo to SW of Force at 1055Z. Comms and radar lost at 1100Z as aircraft descended to low level in poor visibility. Ac fuel expired 1210Z. Navy pilots missing - NOK have been informed.

(2) HMS SHEFFIELD. Final casualties are 20 Dead, 24 Injured (1 VSI List).

b. SSNs. CTG's intentions are:

(1) Sprint SPARTAN north to VIC 41S 60W (about 600n miles N FIs).

(2) Sprint CONQUEROR north to VIC 49S 60W (N Bdry TEZ).

(3) SPLendid to continue inshore patrol NW TEZ.

c. ENDURANCE (CTG 317.9). Remains LEITH and has conducted helo recce and reprovisioning of permanent Op. BLUE ROVER (in company PLYMOUTH and BRITISH ESK) moving to RV for air drop at 071000 thence to S GEORGIA.

d. Amphibious Gp.

(1) ARGONAUT/ARDENT/TIDEPOOL/CANBERRA/ELK sailed from ASI 061800Z.

(2) FEARLESS Unit (TU 317.0.5). With INTREPID/ATLANTIC CONVEYOR/NORLAND/EUROPIC FERRY/STROMNESS due to sail from ASI 072000Z.

- e. LSL Group. Now holding 1500 miles SW ASI. ANTRIM joins as CTU 317.0.4 today transferring BAS/Prisoners to ANTELOPE. ANTELOPE will then detach to ASCENSION with TIDESPRING. PLYMOUTH joins LSL Group 8 May as surface escort.
4. RAF.
- a. One NIMROD conducted surface surveillance within 400 N Miles ASI and a second supported the ANTELOPE Group down future track and within 100 N Miles of Group.
- b. A VICTOR tanker and the 9th HARRIER GR3 arrived ASI from BANJUL yesterday. SAR support was provided by a NIMROD detached to FREETOWN.
- c. One NIMROD surface surveillance sortie in support of LSL and one surveillance sortie around ASI is planned for today.
- d. 6 x GR3 HARRIERS have loaded on ATLANTIC CONVEYOR due to sail from ASI today. 3 HARRIERS remain at ASI to provide Air Defence Cover.
5. HQ 3 Wing RAF Regt and A Flight 15 Fd Sqn RAF Regt are now deployed to ASI for security duties. The deployed HQ is assessing security requirements and may ask for a second Flight to be sent to ASI. Signals are attached (2) (3).
6. HERCULES air to air refuelling trials have been completed in the UK and the aircraft is now cleared as a receiver of VICTOR K2 by day or night with some minor limitations.
7. ASCENSION FUEL. It is expected that the new four miles fuel pipeline from the tank-farm near GEORGETOWN to the airfield will be pressure tested this weekend. This will replace the present bowser delivery and enhance the flow rate.