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153/82

OD(SA)(82) 41ST MEETING
AT 1100 ON SATURDAY 22 MAY 1982

RELEVANT PAPERS

1. The following papers are enclosed:

Agenda	<u>FLAG A</u>
Your Speaking Notes	<u>FLAG B</u>
SITREP to the PM as at 212100A	<u>FLAG C</u>
Minutes of Friday's OD(SA) Meeting	<u>FLAG D</u>
FCO Note on Position at UN	<u>FLAG E</u>
OD(SA)(82)56 - The Independence Option	<u>FLAG F</u>

ITEM 1 - MILITARY ISSUES

2. Outline speaking notes are at FLAG B, but you will no doubt get a better picture from the Northwood brief. The SITREP sent to the PM last evening is at FLAG C.

ITEM 2 - POLITICAL ISSUES

3. FLAG E may prove a bit dated but we hope to have the FCO folder available for you on return from Northwood. FLAG F is a new paper which you may find interesting.

Jim
Drafted by: SCDS
Dated: 22 May 82

(Maj I M Walden RM)

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SPEAKING NOTES FOR CDS

THE MILITARY SITUATION AS AT 220600A MAY 82

1. Introduction. The major event of the period was, of course, the successful establishment of a beachhead by 3 Cdo Bde around San Carlos Water. The initial landings were unopposed but during the day, the Task Force was attacked by waves of Argentinian aircraft. Considerable attrition was inflicted but 4 of our own escort ships were hit, two seriously.

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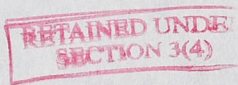
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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(date) 15-09-09

(Signed) F Boyle

3. Own Forces

(1) In early hours of 21 May the Amphibious Force entered Falkland Sound from the North. Troops in INTREPID, FEARLESS, MV NORLAND, CANBERRA and STROMNESS ~~escorted~~ by PLYMOUTH, YARMOUTH, ANTRIM, BRILLIANT, ARDENT, ARGONAUT and BROADSWORD.

(2) Initial landing by SBS from ANTRIM after bombardment by ANTRIM of ARG positions on Fanning Head. NGS reduced enemy from estimated 40 to 14 who quickly surrendered to 3 SBS after short fire fight.

(3) Diversionary Raid by D Sqn SAS on Goose Green/Darwin mounted in early hours. Full report awaited but one Pucara shot down by Stinger.

(4) Main Landings by 3 Cdo Bde and Para Bns on Eastern and Western Shores of San Carlos Sound began at 0740Z (0440 local) ? by landing craft (night) and helo (down) on 4 beaches.

Ajax Bay	45 Cdo
San Carlos Settlement	40 Cdo and 2 Para
Port San Carlos Settlement	3 Para

Landings unopposed and complete by 1200Z with surrounding high ground secure. D Sqn has joined 3 Para.

(5) T Bty (Rapier) and 4 Lt Btys flown ashore. Rapier not yet in action (212330A). Heavy equipment being landed from LSLs.

? (6) HQ 3 Cdo Bde remains in FEARLESS; 42 Cdo remains on ships as reserve in San Carlos Water.

(7) Harrier GR3 attacked Arg helos on ground near Port Stanley during the forenoon; one Chinook, one Puma destroyed.

(8) At 1330Z (1030 local) the Arg Air Force began attacks on ships in San Carlos Water and units of Task Force standing off. Effects:

- ANTRIM: Sea Slug, stbd Sea Cat and 992 out of action; unexploded bomb ~~aft~~ (EOD team on board), Helo riddled - fuel tank ruptured. Extensive splinter damage above water line. Major fire-main breaches and hydraulic leaks after end Sea Slug magazine. Fires extinguished. Abandoned and at anchor. Survivors to NORLAND.
- ARGONAUT severely damaged by 2 bombs but weapons intact; in cover at end of Sand Carlos Bay without engines.

Latent
report
timed ab 0445

- ARDENT sank whilst at anchor in Falkland Sound, having been hit by 2 or 3 bombs. Fires and flooding could not be contained. Survivors to CANBERRA.
- BROADSWORD - splinter damage, one Sea Wolf System u/s.
- BRILLIANT - minor damage.

(9) Losses

1 x GR3, 2 x Gazelle helos , 1 x SK prior to landing.

(10) Own Casualties

ARDENT. Not known.

ARGONAUT. 2 missing presumed dead (not confirmed),
1 x VS1, 2 x SI.

BROADSWORD. 1 x SI, 12 minor shrapnel, 1 acute battle neurosis.

ANTRIM. 2 x VS1, 6 minor shrapnel.

BRILLIANT. 3 x VS1.

TOTAL RN: 2 presumed dead, 28 wounded.

RM: 3 killed when the 2 Gazelles were hit. NOK being informed.

b. Deployment of Surface Forces (North to South)

- (1) QE2. Transfers complete. Sails NSI today.
- (2) Bristol Group. 1500 nm NE of TEZ. ETA TEZ 25 May. RAS 241800Z with APPLE LEAF.
- (3) MCM Group. 800 nm NE TEZ. ETA holding area 500 nm ENE of TEZ 24 May.
- (4) EXETER. Arrived TEZ.
- (5) ANTELOPE. Arrived TEZ 212100Z.
- (6) AMBUSCADE. Arrived TEZ 1330Z today.
- (7) Battle Group. In support of Amphibious Group.
- (8) HYDRA, HECLA AND UGANDA to new holding position to North of TEZ at 1300 today.

c. Submarines. No contacts.

- (1) SPARTAN. On patrol GOLFO SAN JORGE.
- (2) VALIANT. On patrol NW area TEZ.
- (3) CONQUEROR. On patrol N of TEZ.
- (4) SPLENDED. On patrol No of TEZ.
- (5) ONYX. Transit 1000 nm E of River Plate. Overflow by 707 at 211416Z.
- (6) COURAGEOUS. Transit 1000 nm NW ASI.

d. Air

- (1) Nimrod. Long range sortie completed at 211230Z. One possible warship contact in significant position. Further L/R sortie airborne from 212259Z to be on task off Argentine coast (Bahia Blanca) by 220700Z.
- (2) Victor. 16 currently at ASI.
- (3) Vulcan. 1 remains ASI.

3. Special Forces Operations

- a. Ten SF patrols are ashore for intelligence gathering tasks; some will act as reception parties or carry out offensive action tasks during landings over the next 2 days.
- b. SAS and SBS carried out diversionary attacks in co-ordination with yesterday's landings.

4. CTF's Intentions (As at 212330A)a. Operational Area.

- (1) Those ships that are able to leave Falkland Sound will rejoin carriers to East. However, not confirmed that this has happened.
- (2) Remainder including FEARLESS to move into San Carlos Water for protection against air attack.
- (3) Consolidate beachhead; off-load echelons and stores. Probe forward with screen forces.

b. Air

- (1) Surface surveillance within 400 nm ASI.
- (2) Long range Hercules drop to ANTELOPE.