

CDS STATEMENT

1330 22.6.82

Yesterday was the day when our operation faced its greatest risks. However, by first light we had achieved our aim. The three major units of the Commando Brigade and the Second and Third Battalions of the Parachute Regiment were all ashore in a virtually unopposed landing. As expected, our ships were then exposed to a concentrated air attack. The war ships achieved their aim of the protection of the landing ships, and although at some cost to themselves this was no more, or perhaps less, than we had expected. In the air battle 14 Argentinian aircraft were destroyed at no loss to the defending Sea Harriers. The Harrier which we lost was engaged in ground attack. Thus the air battle was a complete victory. I have no doubt that the next days will also be difficult, but having established our troops firmly ashore, our confidence is high.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COL DONKIN - 22 MAY 1982

- Q. Can you make any comment of to the mobility of the defending force and what is your assessment of the possibility of a major counter attack against the current bridgehead?
- A. We are not going to speculate because we are awaiting their reaction. It is fair to say as we have attacked their aircraft to a great degree moving around the Falkland Islands is not easy.
- Q. When you talk about Mirages, do you include Dagger?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You do not discriminate between the two?
- A. I won't here.
- Q. Can you tell us anything about the 9 prisoners?
- A. I cannot tell you anything about them at this time. They will be debriefed and no doubt information will come back to us.
- Q. Were they well, were they young etc?
- A. The description of the prisoners is that they were wet, cold and miserable.
- Q. How did resistance measure up against your expectations?
- A. The resistance offered was exactly what we found on South Georgia. We are not optimistic but if that is the level of opposition we are to face, it is encouraging.