

9/31/F

EIS

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D/DS11 10/6

FCO Emergency Unit

cc PS/OPS  
PS/COAS

PS/2 R. Amstrong

Copy to:  
PS/PUS

- AUS (D Staff)
- Head of DS11
- Head of DS5
- Head of DS6
- Head of DS8
- D of D OPS (ROW)
- DCPR
- DS11 Duty Officer

ACCOUNT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS ON 20, 21 and 22 MAY IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AREA FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

1. In response to Sir Anthony Parsons' request in UK Mis New York Tel no 824 for a statement about military operations in the Falkland Islands area since 19 May to counteract the circulation to the UN Security Council of Argentine military communiques, I attach a factual account of our military operations.
2. Our account reflects the press statements which have been made from here over the last few days, but contains a few extra details on such matters as timing. You will wish to consider whether to retain the reference to the loss of a Sea King helicopter in Chile on 20 May, although the text in this case also reflects an MOD press announcement.
3. The paper is deliberately factual rather than polemical. Although the precise details of casualties are perhaps more for domestic than international consumption, I have nonetheless chosen to include them to provide evidence of the accuracy of the account.

C.B.J.

C B JENNINGS  
DS11  
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23 May 1982

6. There are no details of the number of Argentine casualties. British casualties are estimated at 49 missing or dead and 55 wounded.

22 MAY 1982

7. No Argentine units were engaged on land. British Forces consolidated their positions. An Argentine patrol boat was attacked and damaged by Sea Harriers in the Choiseul Sound inlet to the south of Port Stanley, and Harriers attacked military installations in the Goose Green area. During the raid several wrecked Pucara aircraft were identified. In the afternoon two Argentine Skyhawk aircraft approached the UK bridgehead at San Carlos, but did not press home an attack.



1. The following is a factual account prepared by the United Kingdom authorities of military operations in the area of the Falkland Islands since the attack by two UK Sea Harrier aircraft eight miles to the West of Port Stanley on 19 May, which was reported to the President of the United Nations Security Council on 7. Although some details are as yet incomplete, the information provided accurately reflects reports from British forces in the area.

20 MAY 1982

2. To increase pressure on the Argentine garrison, Argentine military installations on the Falkland Islands were bombarded by Naval gunfire and UK ground attack Harriers flew sorties against land targets, including Fox Bay on West Falkland. A UK Sea King helicopter, on a reconnaissance mission in the vicinity of Tierra del Fuego, was lost in appalling weather conditions, presumably while attempting to make an emergency landing at an airfield in Chile. Three personnel are missing.

21 MAY 1982

3. With the objective of destroying Argentine military installations, including fuel and ammunition dumps and military stores, a number of Marine and Army raiding parties were landed on the Falkland Islands. One of these captured an Argentine position on Fanning Head overlooking Falkland Sound. There were no British casualties, but a number of Argentine soldiers were killed and prisoners taken. Another raid attacked Goose Green airfield and Argentine positions closeby. A Naval bombardment was also conducted against military installations in the vicinity of Port Stanley, and other areas of the East Falklands and Harrier attacks were undertaken in the area of Port Stanley airfield and Fox Bay.

4. A major amphibious landing in the area of San Carlos on East Falkland, involving three Royal Marine Commandos and two Battalions of the Parachute Regiment, commenced at around 0740 GMT (0440 local time). The landings were unopposed. Subsequently supporting arms were transferred to the shore, including artillery and air defence weapons. All the major infantry units were ashore by 1200 GMT (0900 local time).

Local inhabitants gave a warm welcome to the British Forces. During these operations, two UK Gazelle helicopters and one Harrier were lost. Prior to the operation, a Sea King helicopter was accidentally lost while transferring personnel between ships.

5. At 1330 GMT (1030 local) the Argentine air force began a series of attacks against UK vessels. During these they lost nine Mirage aircraft, five Sky hawks, 2 Pucaracs and four helicopters. Three British warships sustained minor damage but remained operational, one suffered damage to its engine room but not to its weapons, and a Type 21 Frigate, HMS ARDENT, sank in the night of 21/22 May after being hit earlier by bombs and rockets.

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22 MAY 1982

7. No Argentine units were engaged on land. British Forces consolidated their positions. An Argentine patrol boat was attacked and damaged by Sea Harriers in the Choiseul Sound inlet to the south of Port Stanley, and Harriers attacked military installations in the Goose Green area. During the raid several wrecked Pucara aircraft were identified. In the afternoon two Argentine Skyhawk aircraft approached the UK bridgehead at San Carlos, but did not press home an attack.