

MO. PRESS BRIEFING HELD IN THE CONCOURSE HALL AT 1400 HRS ON 28 MAY 82

Q. Was the Uganda attacked at all?

A. I understand not.

Q. The Argentines claim they used Canberra bombers to attack our troops? At what time did the Mirages and Skyhawks attack us?

A. I do not have the final reports on that incident. I cannot confirm whether Canberra had been involved. As to the damage involved - we have no reports of RN ships being damaged.

Q. What is the role of the Uganda? Any idea of how many casualties?

A. Once wounded they tend to stay on the ship. In some case some of the smaller ships go in. The number wasn't reported.

Q. Is there a procedure for trying to find out about the pilot that ejected?

A. We normally expect the country who has the pilot, to let us know.

Q. Any idea of the total amount of aircraft shot down so far?

A. We are hoping to be able to get this but it is not an easy exercise. We are trying not to give inflated figures.

Q. Where is the Uganda now?

A. I cannot say where she is but naturally a hospital ship will try to keep itself as far out of the most intense operational areas.

Q. Was yesterday the first time she went in?

A. I don't know.

Q. Are the number of severely wounded casualties the same group you told us about recently or new ones?

A. I don't know precisely what those casualties were.

Q. Do we know of any Argentinian significant movements and can you tell us about the salvage operation on the Atlantic Conveyor?

A. I have seen no reports of any significant movements by the Argentines on the ground. Atlantic Conveyor - my understanding is that it is still being looked at but the latest information I have seen is that the prognosis is not so good. There has been no official decision as yet.

Q. Can you tell us where hostilities were going on at the time the Uganda was in Middle Bay?

A. Yes there were.

Q. Do you have the official casualty figures for the Atlantic Conveyor and the Coventry?

A. We are still with the same figures we had yesterday.

Q. Have any ground troops been hurt?

A. We would still ideally like to inform the next of kin first.

Q. Is the RAF Harrier pilot missing assumed dead or missing and captured?

A. We don't know. He ejected and came down into territory held by the Argentines.

Q. Can you tell us his name?

A. I haven't got his name.

Q. Can you tell us the approximate location where he came down?

A. No, I can't give you that.

Q. You announced yesterday that the British troops would not hang around? Are we still moving?

A. It is not in the nature of British troops to hang around.

Q. Are the British forces winning?

A. We have never thought of losing.