

2038/1/2

SITUATION REPORT FOR OP SUTTON AS AT 212100A

1. Shortly after midnight local time, the Amphibious Force entered Falkland Sound from the North. HM Ships INTREPID, FEARLESS, MVs NORLAND, CANBERRA and STROMNESS comprised the initial troop lift escorted by HM Ships PLYMOUTH, YARMOUTH, ANTRIM, BRILLIANT, ARDENT, ARGONAUT and BROADSWORD. The initial landing was by Royal Marines of the Special Boat Service from HMS ANTRIM after she had bombarded Argentine positions on Fanning Head. The Argentinian positions were captured and a number of Argentinian troops surrendered.
2. The main landings were made by Royal Marines and soldiers of the Parachute Regiment on both Eastern and Western shores of San Carlos Water starting at 0740Z (0440 local). These landings were unopposed.
3. A small raid on Goose Green airstrip was mounted by Special Forces during dark hours and a full report is awaited although it is known that one Pucara aircraft was shot down by a short range hand-held missile system.
4. Following the troop landings in San Carlos Water, the Landing Ships (Logistic) entered and began to unload Air Defence and heavy weapons and equipment. All major infantry units were put ashore by 1200Z (0900 local).
6. Harrier GR3 aircraft from the carriers attacked Argentinian helicopters on the ground near Port Stanley during the forenoon accounting for 1 Chinook and 1 Puma.
7. At 1330Z (1030 local) the Argentine Air Force began air attacks on the ships in San Carlos Water and units of the Task Force standing off the Falklands. During these attacks, HM Ships ANTRIM, BROADSWORD, BRILLIANT, ARGONAUT and ARDENT were damaged the latter two seriously. A report at 1817Z indicated ARDENT was sinking but this has yet to be confirmed.
8. During these air attacks a ^{provisional} total of 10 Mirage, 5 A4 and 3 Pucara were destroyed with a further A4 possibly destroyed. One of our Harrier GR3 aircraft and two Gazelle helicopters are missing.
9. A late report states that:

ANTRIM is anchored making repairs.
ARGONAUT is under tow by PLYMOUTH.
ARDENT is afloat under tow by YARMOUTH.
BRILLIANT and BROADSWORD only minor damage.
PLYMOUTH and YARMOUTH undamaged.
No damage to Amphibious ships or civilian ships carrying the Landing Force.