

4.5.82

TEXT OF BROADCAST BY MOD

In the course of its duties within the total exclusion zone, HMS SHEFFIELD was attacked and hit late this afternoon by a missile. A fire started and it became out of control. The Ship's Company abandoned ship and all who managed to abandon ship were picked up. It is feared there are a number of casualties. There are no details yet as next-of-kin will be informed first.

In further action over the Falklands, a Vulcan attack this morning was successful and the aircraft returned safely. Further sea harrier action - one sea harrier was shot down and the pilot was killed. His name will be announced after confirmation that his next-of-kin have been informed. The Task Force continues with its duties as planned. There will be a statement in the House tomorrow when further details are available.