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**Se refiere al hundimiento de la SHEFFIELD, publicado por el Ministerio de Defensa de Gran Bretaña.**

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**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FLEET**

**LOSS OF HMS SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF INQUIRY**

**Annex E**

NBCD AND AIR DEFENCE TRAINING ACHIEVED

1. Scope. This annex outlines the training achieved between BOST (Apr - Jun 81) and 4 May in NBCD, including First Aid, and Air Defence, two areas of particular significance in relation to the loss of the ship.

NBCD TRAINING

2. The NBCD material state at Operational Date Material Assessment Inspection was assessed as satisfactory, (1) (2). The ship achieved a Very Satisfactory assessment for BOST, and at her inspection earned a Good assessment (3), with only NBCD a disappointment. However, overall, NBCD was assessed as Satisfactory although FOST recommended in his report that one of the priorities for further training should be NBC countermeasures.

3. The ship's subsequent programme is at Annexes C and D. NBCD training and exercises were regularly completed between Jun 81 and Apr 82 in accordance with FATI 1103, and targets set by Fleet Form 10 Schedules were achieved. The majority of the Ship's Company interviewed had completed either a one or two-day fire fighting FJT. Successful efforts had been made by SHEFFIELD to arrange courses for those members of the Ship's Company who had not done a Fire Fighting FJT prior to joining. However, a number of Officers and Senior Rates did not attend such a course before or after joining.

Q7020

Q2594

4. NBCD training and exercises were intensified after Ascension as were material preparations for war (see Annex D). Training commenced with individual and group sessions including lectures and practices. Instruction given to the whole Ship's Company covered:-

Q2577

Q2732

Q5691

Q6069, Q6205

Q39

- a. SURVIVAL AT SEA
- b. ABANDON SHIP DRILL
- c. LIFERAFT DRILL
- d. SURVIVAL SUIT ACQUAINT
- e. USE OF LIFEJACKETS
- f. ELEMENTARY FIRST AID
- g. USE OF CHEMICAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT.

5. Additionally, Damage Control Parties completed practical training covering:-

- a. DAMAGE CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS
- b. INCIDENT BOARD OPERATOR DRILLS
- c. BREATHING APPARATUS DRILLS

Q2577

Q2577

Q2589

- (1) ODMA Signal (no longer extant).
- (2) Staff Engineering Assessment Document - SHEFFIELD - 1981.
- (3) FOST 3003/35A dated 12 Jun 81.

- d. BREATHING APPARATUS CONTROLLER DRILLS Q2577
- e. FIRE FIGHTING TECHNIQUES Q2581
- f. RE-ENTRY TECHNIQUES Q2580
- g. EMERGENCY CABLE RUNS. Q2585

6. Three full scale Damage Control exercises were completed after leaving Ascension. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX and some Senior Rates planned and umpired these exercises. In an attempt to introduce realism casualties were used, as were fully charged hoses on some occasions, although not between decks. Fearnought suitsmen were fully dressed and used Breathing Apparatus. However, smoke was not used as none was available. Determined efforts to acquire smoke cannisters prior to ARHILLA Patrol in Sep 81 were unsuccessful. In addition, an NBC Exercise was completed in which decontamination and cleansing teams were exercised.

S33, SAC,  
S44

7. Damage Control and Fire Fighting equipment was tested, checked, and where applicable operated. Plastic couplings on hoses had not proved defective (4) except one which was replaced. An NBCD Ventilation Peg Board (5) had not been produced. The Rover Gas Turbine Pump was checked but only run in harbour. It had last been run up between 25 and 29 Mar in Gibraltar.

- Q2582
- Q2585
- Q2584
- Q2605
- Q2587

8. Action Stations were exercised and times to achieve naming and material states, State 1 Condition ZULU, were halved. Two full scale secure for action exercises were held and all compartments were inspected. Fire Exercises, including Main Machinery Space Fires, were conducted as were Emergency Stations and accounting for personnel with some ratings deliberately hidden. Instructions on use of the AGR as an emergency aid in smoke filled compartments were published in Daily Orders and in the regular daily SITREPs given by XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Q7006
- Q7009
- Q2596
- Q7014
- Q7015

S33, SAC,  
S44

9. The Action and Defence Watch organisation of the ME Department was adjusted so that experienced ratings manned important positions rather than recently advanced ratings consolidating their training. Additionally, the most experienced Chief-of-the-Watch was designated Action Chief-of-the-Watch who always closed up at Action Stations.

- Q2610
- Q2614

10. First Aid. The Medical Department had been assessed as Good in the 1981 ECST. No shortcomings were found in the Executive Officers' Organisation (3). There were two First Aid Parties, one forward and one aft. Although neither XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX had completed a formal first aid course, they had attended instruction on board from a fully qualified instructor. Approximately 20% of the Ship's Company were qualified to give first aid, but only 10% had completed the PHOENIX or RALPH courses. First Aid training was carried out on the way to the TEE in conjunction with survival training, and was included in NBCD exercises.

S33, SAC,  
S44

- Q6169, Q2721
- Q6205, Q2731
- Q2578

- (3) FOST 3003/35A dated 12 Jun 81.
- (4) MODUK HBL/H9D/OAA/L3D/MEP 281455 SEP 81.
- (5) DCI 500/81.



Generator. No genuine trainer exists for the 909 acquisition practice. The effect of this is particularly serious in relation to low level acquisitions especially in clutter conditions.

Q459

18. Comment. In view of the time spent covert after Ascension the Board found the failure to use simulation surprising.

19. GDP Crew. The GDP's Crew was exercised regularly, but seldom with both operator and WE elements together. Frequently the WEs were not available. The WE element was job-changed shortly before arrival in the TEZ and they had little chance to train alongside their operator counterparts or to gain confidence and expertise. The Board feel that this offers some explanation for the crew's unimpressive performance on 4 May (see Annex J).

Q6408-Q6413  
Q6374-Q6379  
Q6334  
Q6354  
Q6387  
Q6409, Q6410  
Q6411

20. Both the Commanding Officer and (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) expressed their satisfaction with the way the two Defence Watches had improved in performance and ability since BOST 81. (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX)

538  
840, 844