



Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

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THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

A proper Airfield

The decision to build a civil and military airport at March Ridge to international standards means that the children and young people of the Islands have a real future as free citizens of their own country.

When the airfield is completed the Islands will be no more than twenty four hours from London, perhaps even less. New Zealand and Australia will be within reach. In point of time the Falkland Islands will be closer to Western Europe than were Orkney and Shetland to London in the first half of this century.

At present, life in Port Stanley, in the aftermath of last year's invasion, is not comfortable. The settlements are, in most cases, less affected. The people of Stanley are adapting to the continuous changes brought about by the military presence, the contractors' teams working on roads, housing and reconstruction projects; and an influx of officials, experts, parliamentarians and press. The town is overcrowded and full of strange faces. The children however are reported to prefer things as they are now to life as it was before the invasion.

The immediate problems are in everyone's minds, but they will be resolved, and it is worth looking at what the airfield means for the future; at what kind of a country and a life Falkland Islanders can now hope to build for themselves and their children.

Room for Development

There are now real prospects for the development of the resources of the Falkland Islands, the seas around them and the subantarctic islands to the South. The key to any development is direct air communication—a fact emphasized by everyone who has examined the Islands' economy and underlined in Lord Shackleton's reports.

The Islands are large. There is plenty of room. Development does not need to be in Port Stanley—in fact it would be better to find a new centre and a new harbour at Mare Harbour near the airfield, leaving Stanley as the centre of administration and services such as schools and hospitals.

The Falkland Islands have enormous potential which present a challenge, both to the Falkland Islanders and to Britain. There is every indication, as there was after Lord Shackleton's 1976 Report, of worldwide interest in their onshore and maritime resources. They are the South Atlantic gateway to the Antarctic. Their strategic position in the South Atlantic has at last been recognized.

Development projects under consideration point to the rapid growth of farming as a supplement to, but not a replacement of, wool as the main export. Wool is likely to be overtaken by services to the fishing fleets of many countries as the main industry. The declaration of a 200 mile fisheries zone will come, and the development of commercial fishing for krill will increase the already substantial number of fishing vessels in the South West Atlantic. Fish and meat processing plants will bring the first industries to the Islands. Alginates will become an industry only when there is an upturn in the world economy, and may be a later development. Tourism will again become a modest contributor.

The Oil Factor

The most difficult problem to assess is the development of oil resources. Britain is facing a balance of payments deficit after 1987 as North Sea oil production and revenues fall. World oil supply exceeds demand at present, due to the world recession, but Europe as a whole is deficient in oil resources. The Falkland Islands are closer to Britain by sea than is the Persian Gulf, and in many circumstances oil from the Falkland Islands will be vital to Britain and Europe. Continual reassessment is needed of published views on when drilling could be economic.

Altogether the children in the Falkland Islands who are now growing up are going to have opportunities in the next century, indeed in the next few years, which their parents did not have unless they emigrated. They will grow up in an expanding population—perhaps 20,000 people by the turn of the century—with far more opportunities for employment and choice of occupation; and they will still have a beautiful land with miles of open country and unspoilt seacoast. They will also be a part of the twenty-first century world.

ONE YEAR ON

The following article is reproduced from the June edition of the Penguin News by kind permission of the Editor.

"It's now almost a year since the occupation ended, and perhaps a good chance to take a breath and try to take stock.

There's no doubt that Stanley has changed, but I don't think Camp has changed significantly. It was a pleasure to get away from Stanley the other weekend and visit Long Island, Green Patch and Brookfield. The hospitality was just as I always remember it, and it was lovely to experience the peace and tranquility again, that is, apart from the flock of sparrows (or was it motorbikes) that swooped from settlement to settlement.

Stanley has changed: the harbour is full of ships, the sky is seldom empty of aircraft, and the streets are full of traffic.

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There's no doubt that the roads in town are having a depressing effect on everyone. It's impossible to keep anything clean. It's not mud, mud, glorious mud at all! The guy who wrote that song got it wrong.

It is difficult to see beyond the present, the muddle and the mud, but when I occasionally manage time to sit down and look at the prospects in the far, seemingly unreachable, future I do get the odd twinge of excitement.

This time last year we were so shell shocked life was a bit bewildering. The mess the Argies were making everywhere, then their surrender. Gear everywhere. I remember that, from where I live at the East End of town, it was impossible to get the car into the centre of town because of the piles of gear the Argies had left strewn over the roads. That has all been cleared up. We all had soldiers in our houses. They are still in some houses, but that could soon end, and we are gradually getting our buildings back. We couldn't move out of town for fear of booby traps and mines. What a magnificent job the EOD boys have done. It's possible to move out of town now and go for walks. To me that is a tremendous psychological relief. We had no electricity or water; things in that line are still a bit shaky, but much improved. Housing is still a very big problem, but the pressure should ease soon. It's all taking time, perhaps more time than it should have but it is happening. We should end up with concrete roads in town, a new airport, a new jetty, hopefully a new GP centre, sheltered accommodation for the old folk, perhaps even a new squash court. Restaurants are opening up; we have a Folk Club. Let's hope it all happens. With the news that the Sir Caradoc had to turn back from Ascension with mechanical trouble comes the realisation that the memorial cannot be finished in time for the first anniversary. It's a great pity that a lot of hard work has been in vain, but it does give more time for a proper job to be done, and I believe it was five years before the Battle of the Falklands memorial was put up.

Relations with the Military have had their ups and downs, but generally speaking have been very good. I do feel strongly that we must resist any temptation to let the Military, with their resources and manpower, take over any jobs that civilians were responsible for previously. We must live in harmony with the Military, but it's not in our interests, or theirs, that they should take us over. Our biggest problem, as always, is manpower.

A week ago one of the television crews interviewed a group of Junior and Senior school children. The children were all asked the same question - Did you like it better before the invasion, or as it is now? On all the other questions there was a variety of answers, but on this one they were all generally agreed. They preferred it as it is now! I thought that interesting, and wondered how many parents would agree with that assessment. A pointer to the inevitable?"

THE FALKLANDS - ONE YEAR LATER

- by Bill Richards

It would be very satisfying if I could tell you that one year after the liberation of the Falklands everything was back to normal.

Unfortunately that seems not be the case; but as we all know such observations are often based just on what we can see, and just now all we can see is mud, damage and the worst roads the Islands have ever known. Nevertheless we should not ignore the progress that has been made.

Almost everything depends on the roads which were never designed and constructed for the volume and weight of traffic imposed on them at present: they have broken up very badly and very quickly. Roads such as Davis Street and Brandon Road which are the main thoroughfare from the Darwin Road - where the stone crushers are situated - to the site south of Callaghan Road (known as the German Camp) where the concrete is prepared, are now in a very poor state resulting in damage to the

sewers and water mains. It has been necessary for large vehicles to come down to Ross Road and back up to Davis Street via Philomel Street on the concrete roads. Unfortunately even parts of these roads have started to crumble, and a stretch of Ross Road from the Police Station to the corner of Barrack Street collapsed. Repairs have been carried out to one side of this section of road in terrible weather conditions, and now that is complete the other side is receiving attention.

There has been some criticism of the contractors who are entrusted with building the new roads, though personally I have a great admiration for them. The winter has been very bad and not in the least conducive to work of this nature, yet they have persevered. In addition to that part of Ross Road currently under construction they have almost completed Hebe Street which will make it concrete throughout the entire length and will do much to keep heavy vehicles out of the town - particularly those vehicles taking loads from the slipway at Ross Road East to the Airport Road. Other progress is slow, but the excavations are difficult and much deeper than any previous Stanley road-works. This is further hampered by the inability to close off complete sections of road while work is in progress, and the heavy rainfall which floods the excavations requires hours of pumping out before filling. Then the curing time for concrete in cold conditions is extended which delays the use of completed sections considerably.

During June there were two particularly bad periods of snow and low temperatures which resulted in Davis Street, Brandon Road and Reservoir Road being the only available route for military vehicles, and on occasions only vehicles under 3/4 ton were allowed on this route. In very bad conditions all military vehicles were prevented from moving in the town. There have been many accidents causing damage to property, and in particular the poles carrying the mains electricity supply, causing power cuts. However there have been no personal injury accidents, and very seldom was more than one vehicle involved.

Accommodation in Stanley is still inadequate, and there is a constant game of musical chairs. When one family goes on holiday another moves into their house in their absence. I am currently living in a house while the occupier is on holiday. The houses being built for the Falkland Islands Government have suffered in the same way as the road builders and the erection of a house shell appears to take only a few days, but completion of the interior, water, electricity and sewers takes very much longer. It would appear that it will be some time yet before the accommodation situation improves.

At the present time there are about 200 persons away from the Islands on holiday, many to see relatives and friends for the first time since the invasion and others taking advantage of direct passages to and from the Islands, both by sea and air. These people have had a rough time during the last year, and it is hoped they will make the best of their holiday and try to put all behind them. I would think that the reunion party this August will be well attended.

Despite all the problems, to think there is no sign of improvement here would not be correct. The movement of heavy loads will reduce, and with the coming of better weather there will be faster progress on the road construction. There are many other plans gradually coming to fruition, and I would anticipate most of these to be nearing completion in about three years. In the meantime there is much being done behind the scenes, and one should be very careful not to make judgements solely on what can be seen on the streets.

PARLIAMENTARY CHANGES

Following the recent General Election there have been many changes in all parties in the House of Commons. We have lost from the new parliament some old friends, and hopefully gained

some new ones. Sir Nigel Fisher and Mr James Johnson retired from parliament after the last session and did not seek re-election. Both have been active members of the Falkland Islands Committee, and their support has been highly appreciated by all associated with the Islands. We hope that each will enjoy his retirement, but will keep in touch with Islands affairs.

Mr Eric Ogden, a keen supporter and visitor to the Islands, was not re-elected; we confidently expect to see much more of Eric at our various meetings and functions, and perhaps even back in the House sometime in the future.

Changes in the new government see Mr Cranley Onslow, previously Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, return to the back benches; and Mr Richard Luce, a casualty from the Foreign Office after the invasion, return as Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He has not however been given the Falklands in his list of responsibilities. We welcome Baroness Young as Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with responsibility for the Falkland Islands. One interesting newcomer is Mr M Fallon to Darlington. He was previously an assistant to Lord Carrington, and has in his constituency Stanley, Co Durham.

NEW FALKLANDS AIRPORT

The new Falklands airport is to be built at Mount Pleasant instead of Port Stanley because, even allowing for the cost of a road between the new airport and Stanley, it will be less expensive. Defence Minister Michael Heseltine announced recently in the House of Commons. He added that the Mount Pleasant site would also be less likely to suffer unforeseen delays and interruptions, and that traffic at the existing Stanley airport would not have to be restricted during construction.

Explaining the contract arrangements Mr Heseltine said that tenders had been received from three consortia of British civil engineering contractors, and a contract for the new airfield would be placed very shortly with Mowlem/Laing/Amey Roadstone Construction.

The value of the work to be carried out under this contract, together with sub-contracts and shipping is approximately £190m. To this is to be added the cost of the Stanley to Mount Pleasant road, plus a contract to install communication and navigation aids, making a total of about £215m.

Work on the new airport is expected to begin in the autumn – the Falklands spring – and the new main runway should be in operation by April 1985.

DEFENCE BUDGET

Details of the new government defence budget, released on 6 July, announce an allowance of £624m for the defence of the Falkland Islands and Territories. This is in addition to the price of the new airport, and represents approximately 4% of Britain's projected total defence budget.

NOAH'S ARK

The only suitable carrier ship that can be requisitioned as a Noah's Ark to sail for the Falklands in September, is currently on its way back to Europe from the Yemen. A veterinary inspector from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food will fly out this week to inspect it as it passes Suez.

Dimensions and hygiene are critical, with the variety and sensitivity of seven breeds of cattle, plus the sheep, pigs and goats that will make a floating farm of the Danish boat.

While some orders are still being finalised the necessary tests are well under way to ensure that the Falklands maintains its highly-prized disease-free status.

Unfortunately the standards required for transporting horses on a voyage to the Falkland Islands are extremely high and therefore expensive to comply with. Appeal funds are at present insufficient to meet those additional costs, so the 30 to 50 horses needed to replace losses and rebuild stocks lost during the war will travel separately when further funds can be raised.

Any donations should be sent to:

General Alan Mills
Falklands Appeal
2 Greycoat Place
London SW1P 1SD
(Tel 01-222 2541)

NOAH'S ARK TRIAL RUN

Not a dove, not a raven, but twenty budgerigars are being sent forth by the Falklands Appeal to find dry land in the South Atlantic later this month.

And when the budgies arrive at Chartres on West Falkland three weeks later the main contingent of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats will be embarking on the "Noah's Ark" cattle carrier at Southampton. But the budgerigars, brought up in Oxted, Surrey, will sail from Portsmouth on 25 August in the comfort of the wardroom of the "Andalusia Star" by courtesy of the Ministry of Defence.

"And there came to the Crumpetty Tree
Mr and Mrs Canary,
And they said 'Did you ever see
Any place so charmingly airy?'"

Mr Barnes of Chartres on West Falkland has decided to breed budgerigars.

The farm manager at Chartres, Councillor Bill Luxton, is expecting a tabby cat on the same boat. Five tabbies, all specially selected for their pretty faces and good character, have been reared for life in the Falklands by Mrs Revely of the Cats Protection League at Crawley Down in West Sussex.

FOX BAY EAST – NEW FARMS

Following the purchase of Fox Bay East by the F.I. Government, some parts of the farm have been sub-divided and sold as follows:-

Dunnose Head I	- A. Marsh
Dunnose Head II	- D. Wilkinson
Dunnose Head III	- R. McBeth
Little Charters	- T. Blake
Packes Port Howard	- J. Forster
North Packes Port Howard	- T. Miller

The remaining portion of Fox Bay East has been retained by the Falkland Islands Government for a village development area.

FOX BAY EAST TEXTILE MILL

Falkland Mill to open at Fox Bay in 1984.

Richard and Griselda Cockwell from West Falkland have now completed a 2 month course in Industrial Yarn and Knitwear Production at the Scottish College of Textiles at Galashiels. They will return to the islands next month to start setting up their own wool mill at Fox Bay.

They intend to process Falkland wool into yarn and knitwear for sale both within the Islands and to export markets in Britain the USA and elsewhere.

Packe Brothers have sold their West Falkland Farm to the Falkland Islands Government for sub-division. Fox Bay will now become a village development area. The Cockwells will build their mill there and aim to start production in April/May 1984.

Tom Cassidy, one of the lecturers from the college will join them at Fox Bay to assist in commissioning the Pilot Plant which could have a maximum output of 30,000 Kg per year.

People in the Islands know how important this first effort to diversify the economy will be to their future development.

In December 1982 the British Government voted £31,000,000 for development in the Falklands. The Falkland Islands Government have indicated their support for the mill venture and that funds may be available from this source.

FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

The Association needs more supporters and a larger income than it has at present if it is to continue to do its work efficiently. The burden on our two devoted voluntary workers, Mrs Christie and Mr Taylor is very heavy. The office is extremely busy. We are still the only Falkland Islands number in the London Telephone Directory (apart from the Falkland Islands Company), and enquiries for information about the Islands from politicians, the media and the general public are still plentiful. Callers are referred to the Falkland Islands Government Office, if appropriate, or their questions are answered directly by the Association office.

The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee has asked the Association to make every effort to remain open since they regard the Newsletter as an essential part of an independent Falkland Islands supporters' club. We believe that, given a little more time and much hard work, this Newsletter can be developed into a wide-ranging and interesting forum for views on the Falklands' future and be of positive assistance to the Islanders' future.

We rely for this on the income from our individual and corporate members, and remind all members to check that they are paid up to date. Interim donations are, of course, gratefully accepted!

Advertising

The Editorial Committee is intending to produce the Newsletter at more frequent intervals and to expand its contents. To do this we shall need additional revenue which can only be raised by paid advertising. The present circulation of the Newsletter is 2,000 copies. It is issued free to members of the Association, to 300 Members of Parliament and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, other Commonwealth countries and countries abroad, and 200 in the Islands.

Advertising rates are as follow:-

Full page	- £500
Half page	- £250
Quarter page	- £125
Eighth page	- £ 50
Short insertions	- £ 3 a line

Material Contributions

Contributions of all kinds to the Newsletter are welcome from members and non-members alike. Articles, letters, opinions, news, etc. are essential to stimulate active discussion on Falkland Islands affairs. The more interesting the paper the wider the circulation. Let us hear from you.

THE UNITED KINGDOM FALKLAND ISLANDS TRUST

The Trust was established in June 1981, before the occupation of the Islands, to raise funds by voluntary contributions for a wide range of charitable purposes, to benefit the people of the Falklands. Its objectives are:-

- The provision of necessary facilities at schools in the Falklands and the provision of bursaries, grants and allowances to enable Falklands youth to attend schools, colleges and other educational institutions in the UK.
- The provision of grants and allowances to enable people from the UK to visit and study in the Falkland Islands and Region.
- The promotion of study and research into the history of the Falkland Islands and the Region.
- The provision of funds, equipment, amenities and facilities for the hospitals and other medical services in the Falkland Islands and Region, and funds to help patients from the Islands and Region to receive medical treatment.
- To promote study and research into the development of agriculture, and all other industries and sciences in the Falkland Islands and Region.

Once the immediate requirements to rehabilitate the population had been covered by the Falklands Appeal, the Trust started a constructive programme of assistance. Currently three Falkland Islands girls are on a long secretarial course in London to assist in the development of administrative services in Port Stanley on their return.

Additionally the Trust is examining, in conjunction with the International Institute of Biological Husbandry, a research project to assist in raising the yield of grass in the Falkland Islands, and the growth of trees by organic methods.

Another project under examination is one for assisting with trade training in subjects such as welding, vehicle and generator maintenance.

The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust will also be applying their funds for longer term charitable projects, as outlined, filling gaps which may become apparent after the Government's rehabilitation plans are complete. However if in the meantime any project within the objectives of the Trust are identified in the Falkland Islands, the Trustees are willing to consider them, provided they are supported by the Civil Commissioner.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FOUNDATION

The Falkland Islands Foundation is a United Kingdom charity which was established in 1979 by Sir Peter Scott and others in order to promote the conservation of wildlife, wrecks and places of historic interest in the Falklands. The work of the Foundation was brought to a temporary halt by the Argentinian invasion (and in the aftermath of the war its role is even more essential) but it is active again now, and there are several interesting projects in the pipeline. The Foundation is closely linked with the Falkland Islands Trust, a conservation organisation in the Islands to which the Foundation looks for information and advice.

One of the goals of the Foundation is to undertake a survey of terrestrial and marine fauna and flora in the Falklands, and thereby establish a 'data base' of the sea bird colonies, the seal rookeries, the tussac grass, the kelp, the fish and the many other components of the Falklands ecosystems. Such an ecological survey may sound rather academic, but it is in fact quite a widely used technique of considerable practical value. The information

derived from it will not only be useful for purely conservation purposes – such as deciding which areas would be most suitable for designation as nature reserves – but will also assist agricultural planning and possible future development schemes such as inshore fisheries or kelp harvesting.

The first step towards implementing such a survey is to assemble the information that is already available, and the second step is to carry out field work to fill the gaps in existing knowledge. The first step is already underway, but the second is likely to cost over £100,000 and will take several years. Not surprisingly, money is the biggest problem, and much will depend upon whether the Overseas Development Administration is prepared to give its financial backing to the project. Since an ecological survey was recommended by the Shackleton Report, and is essential to sound conservation and development planning in the Falklands, the Foundation is hoping that ODA will be able to help.

Another objective of the Foundation is to encourage Falkland Islanders (especially children) and servicemen to take an active interest in local wildlife. The Foundation has contributed in the past to the Senior School's project to manage Hooker's Point as a conservation area, and will soon be supplying sample educational leaflets on Falklands species. If these prove to be popular the Foundation will provide a broader range of educational materials. The Foundation has also been asked by the Ministry of Defence to assist in preparation of a poster on Falklands wildlife to be distributed to servicemen.

The Foundation has no intention of becoming a major landholder in the Falklands, nor in any event does it have the funds to do so, but if the opportunity arises it will attempt to raise money to purchase or lease particularly valuable wildlife habitats that are under some degree of threat if no other solution compatible with their conservation can be found. Any management that is necessary will be carried out in conjunction with the Falkland Islands Trust. The Foundation already manages the Twins off Carcass Island and seven small islands off New Island on behalf of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, and will soon become owner of these islands.

The Foundation is a membership organisation and is actively seeking new members. A new membership leaflet is currently being printed. For further information please contact Simon Lyster, Hon. Secretary, Falkland Islands Foundation, C/o World Wildlife Fund – UK, Panda House, 11-13 Ockford Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1QU. Tel: (04868) 20551.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

From the Honorary Membership Secretary

The invasion of the Islands in April 1982 had as you know immediate and severe repercussion in our small office in Greycoat Place, London. Not only were we swamped by representatives of the media but also by shoals of letters from hitherto unknown persons eager to demonstrate support for the UK Government and our people in the Falklands.

Wherever an address was given we replied with our thanks and enclosed a membership form. In many cases in this way we acquired a new member, and it is to these people I am particularly addressing the fact that many subscriptions will be due for renewal, if payment is not made by Bankers Order. We find that the cost of postage to circularise members is formidable, and I shall be very much obliged if members will examine their own records and if necessary forward me their payment.

L.F.T.

S O A Cocktail party

The Annual Cocktail Party of the Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association Ltd, held at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London, had a very special meeting this year as it was held on the first anniversary of the Surrender of the Argentine Invasion Forces in Port Stanley on 14th June.

To mark the occasion the Civil Commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, on behalf of the Falkland Islands Government, joined with the FISOA in a joint reception to which senior members of the Task Force and Islanders visiting the UK were invited.

The reception was an outstanding success, and the guests who numbered more than 100 were afforded the opportunity of meeting old and new friends.

The London Chairman of the Association, Mr W G Calvert, made a brief introductory speech welcoming members and friends, and also proposed toasts to HM the Queen and the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher.

The main speech of the evening was made by Sir Rex Hunt who welcomed members of the Task Force Commands who included Commodore M C Clapp, Commodore H M White, Colonel H M Rose OBE QCM, and Lieutenant Commander M Green. Recalling the invasion Sir Rex gave special praise to the Task Force for the courage and sacrifice involved, and added that he had not forgotten the Islanders themselves and their brave actions during the invasion. In his speech Sir Rex expressed his hope that the new dawning era would see big changes in the Islands and, not least, permanent defence arrangements.

Other principal guests at the function were:-

	Lord Shackleton
	Sir Edwin and lady Arrowsmith
	Sir John Barlow
Islanders –	Monsignor Spraggon
	Mr R Lee
	Mr & Mrs Jack Sollis
	Mr J Whitney
	Mr & Mrs Peter Robertson
	Mr & Mrs Harry Milne
	Mr & Mrs Ron Binnie

CAPTAIN BERRY

We have been advised of the death on 10 June 1983 of Captain Bernard K Berry at the age of 92. Captain Berry will be remembered by those living in the Islands during the 1950's as the relief skipper to Captain Freddy White. Bernard Berry, following a very distinguished career during the second world war, was sometime Commodore of Royal Mail Lines, and in this capacity was known to many travellers to and from South America. He has been buried at sea.

THE ROYAL SHOW & THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT

Royal Agricultural Show

The Falkland Islands Government Office sent their 15-panelled pictorial exhibition to the Royal Show in early July.

The display had originally been put together for the House of Commons during the 150th Celebrations Week in February, but for the Royal Show the display needed less 'conflict' and more 'farming'.

Both Scotnord Limited of Crieff, who manufacture Falkland Islands wool, and 'Farmers Weekly' magazine agreed to sponsor the exhibition. Ted Fellows' articles in 'Farmers Weekly' following his visit to East Falkland farms this year, provided the material for the new designs.

The Falklands Appeal gave one panel which described how money had been raised and how it is being spent, with special emphasis on the Noah's Ark project. It was this story which had caught the imagination of the media, and persuaded Keith Hatfield of ITN to escort Adrian Monk to Stoneleigh for Preview Day at the Royal Show. Mr Monk looked at Toggenburg goats, Saddleback pigs, South Devon cattle and Ayrshires; and was twice seen inspecting a Romney sheep's bottom on ITN News that evening.

Peter Robertson of Port Stephens, Kevin Kilmartin of Bluff Cove and Tim Miller from Dunnose Head were all happy to answer questions at the Show from the press and the public.

We hope that in 1984 a Falkland Islands exhibition will be a central attraction at Stoneleigh.

Royal Tournament

At the Royal Tournament for three weeks the Exhibition attracted a great deal of interest. Scotnord Falkland Islands Wool prompted continual enquiries, and pattern numbers for sweaters modelled by Jack Sollis and Janet McLeod were written on the back of many Royal Tournament programmes. The Association set up shop twice at the Tournament, and Mr & Mrs Walker raised £400 for Association funds.

Later the Exhibition will make further appearances:

- September (for one month) Scottish College of Textiles, Galashiels.
- October The Royal Society when Lord Shackleton speaks (not open to the public).
- November Commonwealth Institute.

SCOUTS ADVENTURE GROUP

We have received news that the Second Wickford Knights Scout Venture Group from Wickford in Essex is planning an expedition to the Falklands, provisionally scheduled for November 1984. It has been necessary for the unit to plan far in advance to prepare for the magnitude and cost of such a mission. Their stated aims for the visit are as follows:-

1. Establish links with the Falklands community and the scouting movement.
2. Initiate the establishment of a Scout Group in the Islands.
3. Discover the lifestyle, customs and character of the Falkland Islands.
4. Record what they witness and accomplish, so that on their return they can pass on their first-hand knowledge of this unique community to the many young people, both in and out of scouting.

Such an expedition would develop the unit's skills in such areas as leadership, administration and communication with people. The unit believes a scout group plays a leading role in the development of the youth of an expanding community, and helps them to take an active and constructive place in their society. Many thousands of people, young and old, benefit from and enjoy scouting worldwide. The unit feels this valuable experience in social development should be shared with the youth of the Falkland Islands and this, they feel, justifies their expedition."

Anyone with practical advice or assistance to offer this adventurous young group should contact them through the Newsletter. The future of the Falklands and our continued association with Britain lies with our young people, and such as these. Let us give them all our support where we can.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Poppy – A Symbol of Peace, Compassion and Remembrance

A year during which public debate on defence issues has been intense seems an appropriate time to comment on the fact that The Royal British Legion is often accused of glorifying war. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Far from being warmongers the Legion's ex-Service members believe they owe a debt of honour to remember their comrades who did not return, and to care for their widows and children as well as for those who came back, broken in body or in spirit. It is clear therefore that, far from perpetuating the glories of war The Royal British Legion is deeply concerned with its tragic aftermath.

Last year television coverage of the Falklands Conflict brought the grim realities of war home to us. However memory fades and familiarity can deaden our responses. Thus Northern Ireland's problems, with the terrible toll of death and disablement, have become almost commonplace. Yet 498 Servicemen have been killed there since 1969 and many more wounded. But whilst others may forget, the Legion remembers in the best way possible; by giving immediate help in a wide variety of ways.

The RBL's free pensions advisory service handles over 11,500 cases every year. The plight of war widows is of particular concern, especially the unjust anomalies in pensions of those widowed before 1973. And few people know that, since 1948, the Legion has been organising low-cost pilgrimages to war graves in many parts of the world.

Disabled people usually find themselves at the end of the queue for work, especially during periods of high unemployment, but not with the Legion, which is the biggest private employer of disabled people in the country. Their Poppy Factory, for example, provides full-time work for 114 very severely disabled ex-Service men and women, and part-time work for a further 17 who produce the staggering 45 million poppies, 200,000 Remembrance Crosses and 66,000 wreaths sold during the annual Poppy Appeal.

At the RBL Village near Maidstone, Kent, disabled ex-Service people are employed on a variety of work, including the production of road signs and timber pallets, and in printing. Here too is "The Churchill Centre", a purpose-built rehabilitation and assessment centre, built in 1981. The Legion also operates the Attendants' Company, the country's second largest car parking organisation, employing 716 ex-Service men and women, 28% of whom are disabled. And finally perhaps the least-known area of Legion enterprise; their London Taxi School, where one third of the capital's taxi drivers learn their trade.

The RBL's autonomous Housing Association was formed 19 years ago and, since then, it has provided more than 10,000 homes for elderly and disabled people.

Five Country Homes provide residential care for ex-Service people who, through age or infirmity, can no longer look after themselves. And three Convalescent Homes provide short breaks for those recovering from illness.

Far from diminishing, the calls on the Legion's services are on the increase as men and women suffering from the effects of war – often long after the event – continue to need help. Indeed the Legion is committed to capital work, estimated at over £6m over the next five years, to enable Residential Homes to cope with more very old and geriatric residents.

Another factor is openly-stated Government policy which indicates that the balance of funding health and welfare services may alter, with charities expected to shoulder a higher percentage of the cost.

Therefore the need for a successful Poppy Appeal in 1983 is more important than ever. The legion is convinced however that the generosity of the British public will once again come to the fore. Collectors are urgently needed and giving time to help in this way can be as valuable as money.

And as people buy their poppies may they see them for what they really are - symbols of peace, compassion and true remembrance.

PRESENTATION OF JAVA TROPHY

As a result of the friendship and help shown by the inhabitants of Fitzroy and Bluff Cove Settlements to members of 137 (Java) Field Battery RA, during their tour in the Falkland Islands, the Battery has presented the Java Trophy to Mr. Ron Binney, the Settlement Manager of Fitzroy. The trophy is a silver plated elephant, the Battery insignia, which will be competed for annually in the Darwin Sports Festival.

The presentation of the trophy was made by Lt Col D H C Creswell, the Commanding Officer 40 Field Regiment, of which 137 Battery is a part, when he was visiting the Islands early in February 1983.

The inscription on the trophy reads:

Presented by the Battery Commander and all ranks 137 (Java) Battery Royal Artillery in appreciation of the kindness shown by the people of Fitzroy and Bluff Cove during our tour 21 July 1982 - 27 November 1982.

This article is reprinted by kind permission of "The Gunner" Magazine

FALKLAND ISLANDS REUNION 1983

The usual arrangements have been made to hold the annual Falkland Islands Reunion in Ham Hall, Ham Close, Ashburnham Road, Ham (near Richmond), Surrey, on Saturday 27 August 1983, from 2 pm until 10.30 pm.

Admission prices remain the same as last year, which are adults £2.00 and £1.00 for children between 5 and 14 years of age.

Last year so many additional people arrived that we had a problem with the catering, but fortunately we were able to obtain sufficient refreshments to enable us to provide for all comers. It would assist in our calculation however if you could please advise your intentions and the likely number of your party.

Despite changes in the layout of the hall we are hopeful of providing all the usual facilities, which includes a bar providing drinks at normal pub prices.

Finally will you please note that Ham Hall has been provisionally booked for next year's reunion on Saturday 25 August 1984.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Harries
Derek Osborne
Honorary Secretaries

10 Albert Road
Caversham
Reading RG4 7PE
Tel: Home only Reading 470486

Editorial Note: The Reunion is for Falkland Islanders and Falkland Islands Residents visiting or now living in Britain.

BATTLE DAY 1983

Battle Day, the Falkland Island 'national day', recalling the battle of 1914 which secured the South Atlantic for the Royal Navy for the rest of the Great War, will be commemorated in London on Saturday December 10 at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, SW1 at 11.00 am.

The wreath-laying ceremony takes place each year to honour those who died in both World Wars.

Those wishing to attend should meet at the entrance to King Charles Street at 10.45 am. A buffet lunch is available after the ceremony: please contact the Falkland Islands Association.

THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

The Imperial War Museum is collecting information for the national archive on the war in the Falklands. Any existing, or new, material on the war would be most welcome no matter how trivial it may seem - many small pieces help to make the larger picture.

Articles, memories, photographs, etc. are all welcome. Please send them direct to Valerie France, Department of Documents Ref DOC/UF/JL, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1.

POSTCARDS

Mr Henry Heyburn, from The Kentucky Committee for the Falkland Islands, USA, is compiling for publication in 1984, a catalogue of all Falkland Islands and Dependencies postcards published during 1900 - 1950. He would very much like to receive originals or photocopies, front and back, of any such cards anyone may have.

Contact Mr Heyburn direct at:
3918 Leland Road
Louisville
Kentucky 40207
USA.

BILLETING OF TROOPS

Mr Terry Spruce, the Stanley Manager of The Falkland Islands Company, has written to Sir Timothy Kitson MP, Chairman of The Parliamentary Defence Committee in the last Parliament, and also to the Editor of the Sunday Times, in response to press reports which had criticised the Falkland Islands Company over charges for accommodation for troops, describing them as "disturbingly high".

He pointed out that the Falkland Islands Company had not charged £1.50 per soldier per night for accommodation as had been reported. The Company had let houses to the military authorities at rents agreed with them. £60 per month for a dwelling house was an example, the Company doing all repairs and making good dilapidations. £1.50 per head per night was the arrangement entered into by the military with private individuals for billeting troops.

Mr Spruce ended his letter to Sir Timothy by asking for a public retraction of the Committee's findings on this matter, especially to counter the unfavourable publicity resulting from a broadcast made by Sir Timothy on the BBC "Calling the Falklands" programme.

COUNCILLORS VISIT U.N.

Falkland Island Councillors John Cheek and Tony Blake recently arrived in London on route to New York. They are due to address the De-colonization committee at the United Nations this month. They will put to the committee the views of the Islanders on the future of the Falklands.

THE RECEPTION AT LINCOLN'S INN

The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee and the Falkland Islands Association held a most successful annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn to meet The Civil Commissioner Sir Rex Hunt KB CMG and the Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, Mr Adrian Monk OBE.

The guests were received by Sir Rex and Lady Hunt, Mr & Mrs Monk, Sir John Barlow, Chairman of the Committee, and Mr Hunter Christie Chairman of the Association. The Band of the Royal Marines School of Music beat the Retreat on the lawn.

The many distinguished guests of the Association included Baroness Young who had just assumed Ministerial responsibility for the Falkland Islands as Minister of State Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and officials of the Falkland Islands Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Overseas Development Administration, the Home Office and Ministry of Defence and other government departments.

Lord Shackleton, Lord Renton and Members of Parliament of all parties attended, and had opportunities to hear first-hand accounts of conditions in the Islands from visiting Islanders. Members of the Association attended in force and the Reception was oversubscribed.

Mr M Summers, now Vice Chairman of the Association, introduced The Civil Commissioner who thanked the members of the Committee and the Association for all they had done, and were doing, for the people of the Islands. Mr Monk spoke of the importance he, as the Falkland Islands Government Representative, attached to the support of the Association.

At last year's Reception the press and television descended on the Reception in swarms and – could there be a connection – the drink ran out at an early stage just as the dramatic news of General Galtieri's resignation was received. This year the refreshments lasted until the end. It was a less dramatic celebration, but a very happy one at which we welcomed so many old friends visiting from the Islands who, last year, had only just been liberated from the foreign invader.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Among other distinguished guests of the Association were
Hon Timothy Raison, Minister of State Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Overseas Development

Baroness Vickers
Lord Bishopston
Sir Nigel Fisher
Mr Michael Shersby MP
Sir Bernard Braine MP
Mr Nicholas Winterton MP, Secretary, CPA Parliamentary Falklands Group.
Mrs Winterton MP
Mr Ivan Lawrence MP
Mr Eldon Griffiths MP
Mr R Peliza (Member of House of Assembly, Gibraltar)
Senator Ralph Vibert (Representing Bailiff of Jersey)
Sir Vivian Fuchs, President RGS
Lt Col Bridges (Under-Treasurer, Lincoln's Inn)
Mr & Mrs Jolyn Dromgoole, Min. of Defence
Sir Edwin & Lady Arrowsmith
Captain Ian McGregor (HMS Endurance)

FOR SALE

The following articles are available from the Falkland Islands Association Office, 2 Greycoat Place, SW1. Please enclose cost of packing and postage.

T shirts, white, Falkland Islands Crest supported by Lion & Unicorn, Caption "150 years of British Settlement". Small, medium, Large, XL, £4. Childrens 26" and 30" £3.50.
Navy Blue Ties and Head Squares, Falkland Islands crest, £3.50.

Tea cloths, map of Falkland Islands, £1.50

Dusters, map of Falkland Islands, 50p

Overseas Survey Map of Falkland Islands, £2.00

Illustrated Map of Falkland Islands, in colour, £1.75

Child's Map of Falkland Islands, illustrated, black & white for colouring, 40p

Penguin Posters £1.60

Green plastic Car Stickers "Remember the Falkland Islands They're British" 75p

Plastic stick-on Badges, Falkland Islands Crest 10p

Lapel Badges, Falkland Islands crest 60p

Key Rings, Falkland Islands crest £1.20

Carrier Bags, Penguin motif. "Happiness is knowing he's British" 10p

Notelets, Royal marines Beating Retreat at Lincoln's Inn Annual Reception, "Best Wishes". No envelopes. 10 for 50p

Falkland Islands Desk Flags £1.50

"Prospects for the Falkland Islands" published by the Falkland Islands Association, August 1982. Remaindered at 50p

Hand drawn penguin book marks: large 30p, small 20p

"THE FALKLANDS STORY 1592-1982" by Mary Cawkell, £2, incl. post & packing. £1.75 from book shops. A concise and accurate account of the history of the Falkland Islands and the events leading up to the invasion.

ARTIST'S MAQUETTE of Falkland's Britannia, cast in bronze on a granite base, 15" high. 50 only at £1,500, of which £500 goes to the Memorial Fund. An engraved plaque will be provided on the base if required.

Contact Gibbard, Burleighfield Arts Ltd., Loudwater, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 9RF: Telephone 0494 21341.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

The Falkland Islands Government Office in the UK is now at the following address:

Falkland Islands Government
London Office:
29 Tufton Street
Westminster, London SW1P 3QL
Telephone: 01-222 2542
Telex: 8950476 FIGLON

Representative: Adrian Monk OBE

Falkland Islands NEWSLETTERS

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