



Falkland Islands Newsletter

“From the Sea - Freedom”

The Falkland Islands have again made history on the fifteenth anniversary of the Argentine invasion. In all the annals of warfare, the whole of a liberated population, each and every one, have never before been associated in one organisation with their liberators. That is what has happened with the newly-formed South Atlantic Medal Association. Every Falkland Islander has become an associate member in an imaginative gesture by the Islands' Government, reflecting the Islanders' enduring gratitude for the dangerous mission undertaken by the Task Force which suffered more than a thousand casualties, dead and wounded.

It is fitting that the Islanders and their liberators, and relatives of the men who lost their lives, join hands in comradeship in this way, and that the Association should help those veterans in hardship. It is a praiseworthy initiative.

Fifteen years on, amid major political change in Britain and a special effort by Argentina to take advantage of this, Britain should speak in one strong voice to safeguard the freedom so hard won. A timely, and predictable, example of the danger is the suggestion by Argentine Defence Minister, Jorge Dominguez, that a Labour Government would be prepared to surrender the Falkland Islands - a lie the Labour Party has forcefully denied, confirming its previous assurances that it is for the Islanders - and them alone - to decide their own future.

Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Guido di Tella, has stated that he intends to knock on the door of the new Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, a month after the election. He must know by now, that if he tries to raise the sovereignty issue, he will find the door tightly shut.

The Ship That Spelt Defiance



Captain Nick Barker's ENDURANCE. First in and last out of the 1982 Conflict

Courtesy: The Royal Navy Surface Flotilla Photographic Unit, Portsmouth

Falklands Veterans and Islanders Join Hands

Unique South Atlantic Medal Association Formed

A unique organisation has been formed for all members of the Forces who served in the Falklands War and their families to keep in touch with and help each other, and to strengthen links with Falkland Islanders. The South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) as it is called, is open, in three categories, to all 30,000 of the forces awarded the medal, to immediate next of kin of those killed in the campaign, and to all Falkland Islanders.

In an imaginative gesture, the whole Falklands population have become Associate Members, thanks to a decision by the Islands' Government to pay the subscription for all Islanders, the first payment of which was handed over by Falklands Government Representative in London, Miss Sukey Cameron.

The aims of the Association are to promote pride and comradeship among all veterans of the Falklands War and to strengthen links with the Islanders. The Association will keep members in touch with each other and help in cases of hardship or distress through co-operation with other organisations involved in the welfare of the armed forces, such as the British Legion.

Idea from Denzil Connick

The idea for the association came from Lance Corporal Denzil Connick, who lost a leg on Mount Longdon with 3 Para. His Falklands War Veterans group took on new momentum when his former commanding officer, now Lieutenant General Sir Hew Pike, suggested expanding the aims of the organisation. The SAMA came into being, appropriately, on April 2, the 15th anniversary of the Argentine invasion. It is led by a formidable Executive Committee, whose chairman is Surgeon Captain Rick Jolly, who was a tower of strength to the wounded as Commander of the Ajax Bay hospital.

Launching the Association at Falkland House in London, Dr Jolly said many members of the Task Force on support ships over the horizon never stepped ashore or even caught a glimpse of the Islands or met the Islanders they fought for. The Islanders never had the opportunity to say "Thank You" to many of them personally. Dr Jolly said the Association's motto says: "From the Sea, Freedom", epitomis-



Ex-paratrooper Denzil Connick, one of the founders of SAMA, showing off his membership card; another, Major Tony Davies, in the background.



Liberators and Liberated: Falklands student, Sacha Clarke with (left) Commodore Mike Clapp, and Major-General Jeremy Moore.

ing how the Islanders were liberated from their unwelcome invaders by a seaborne Task Force. Dr Jolly felt the Association could help recapture the campaign's corporate spirit and sense of humour that sustains fighting men in time of war. He hoped members might be able to travel to the Falklands to meet the people they liberated.

Falkland Island Membership "Extremely Important"

Denzil Connick called the Falkland Island membership "extremely important" as the Association wants to strengthen contact with the Islanders. "Personally", he said, "I would dearly love to go back on a pilgrimage to visit the battle-sights and the war graves". He has not been back. But he has visited Argentina, shaking hands with his former enemies, including the Argentine gunner whose shell caused his injuries.

"I have no bitterness towards them", he said, "We were fellow-sufferers. It is sad the Argentine Government does not look after its war veterans properly. Many are in extreme poverty, reduced to selling matches on street corners". He said the Association's purpose is comradeship which remains very strong among those who fought in the South Atlantic. The founding membership of just 100, could grow to 5,000 in the first year, with a potential of nearly 30,000.

Dr Jolly said the Association could help veterans who have fallen on hard times to overcome mental barriers and guide them in getting help from forces' welfare organisations such as the British Legion. Dr Jolly has first-hand knowledge of these mental barriers. After his life-saving operations as a battlefield surgeon, he did pioneering research into post-traumatic stress disorder in war veterans, as he explains in his book "The Red and Green Life Machine".

The inaugural launch brought together prominent personalities involved with the conflict. Dr Jolly was reunited for the first time with the Welsh Guardsman Simon Weston to whom he gave emergency treatment for severe burns suffered on the SIR GALAHAD. Also at the inauguration were Land Forces Commander, Major General Sir Jeremy Moore; Lieutenant General Sir Hew Pike; Commodore Michael Clapp, who commanded the amphibious landing at San Carlos; Major General Mike Scott (Scots Guards); Major General Ian Mackay-Dick (Scots Guards and later Commander in the Falklands);



Above: Sukey Cameron presents the Falklands cheque to the South Atlantic Medal Association, with (from the left) ex-paratrooper Denzil Connick, Dr. Rick Jolly; Treasurer, Major Tony Davies; Commodore Mike Clapp; Mrs Sarah Jones; Sir Rex Hunt; journalist Robert Fox, and former Welsh Guardsman, Simon Weston.



Right: Dr. Rick Jolly and Miss Sukey Cameron.
All Photos: Harold Briley

former Governor, Sir Rex Hunt; Mrs Sarah Jones, whose husband, Colonel Jones VC, was killed at Goose Green; Des Keoghane (Falkland Families Association); Welsh Guards Major Tony Davies (Association Treasurer and field officer of the British Legion); Air Commodore Peter Harris, who led air raids on Argentine positions; and Robert Fox, former BBC correspondent with the Task Force. Major General Julian Thompson (Commander of 3 Commando Brigade in the conflict) is also a founder member, but could not attend the inauguration.

Harold Briley

The Newsletter comments:

The Falkland Islands Association, which campaigns in peace to preserve the freedom the Task Force restored in war, enthusiastically welcomes the South Atlantic Medal Association. We congratulate Denzil Connick and his colleagues and hope they reach their target of 30-thousand members! It's a splendid idea that all Islanders should be associate members. We know how grateful they are to the armed forces, as they have demonstrated by their rapport and hospitality ever since. The commendable aims of the Association — comradeship and mutual support — contrast sharply with the shabby treatment suffered by Argentine veterans, some of whom have been reduced to begging in the streets and on public transport and to demonstrations demanding work and better pensions.

The new Association is also important in demonstrating continued unity and mutual support in the face of Argentina's persistent campaign for sovereignty over the Islands.

We ask readers to pass on news of SAMA to all Falklands veterans. Anyone wishing to join should contact: South Atlantic Medal Association, PO Box 82, Blackwood, Gwent, NP2 0YE.



Sir Rex Hunt and Welsh Guardsman Simon Weston

Falkland Families Thanks to Des Keoghane

Tributes were paid to Mr Des Keoghane on his retirement as Chairman of the Falkland Families Association at the 14th annual reunion and general meeting on April 26th. He was elected first ever President of the Association in recognition of his outstanding work in sustaining and promoting its activities, in which he will still be involved.

The tributes were led by his successor as chairman, Mrs Sarah Jones, who said the Association had survived largely because of his energetic leadership. "Without you", she told him, "I believe the Association would not exist. It is your hard work, friendship, inspiration, dedication, and sheer bloody-mindedness that has kept us going... We are very very grateful to you".

The reunion began with a service in the beautiful Guards Chapel in Central London, itself destroyed by German air attack in June 1944 and rebuilt. In this historic place, surrounded by colours and memorials recalling conflicts stretching back more than 300 years, families of some of the 255 British servicemen killed in 1982 came together to remember and pay tribute. Accompanied by the Grenadier Guards' Band, hymns were sung, prayers were said, and wreaths laid at the Falklands Memorial and Book of Remembrance. The service was conducted by one of two Chaplains to the Association, the Rev. Angus Smith and by the Rev. Paul Abrams, Chaplain at the Tower of London.



Des Keoghane, the retiring Chairman of the Falklands Families Association, laying a wreath at the Cenotaph.

Association's activities, including two pilgrimages to the Falklands and two reunions every year, including a memorial service at the Falklands Memorial in St Paul's Cathedral in mid-June.

The Association was formed, appropriately, in the South Atlantic on board the liner Cunard Countess on her way from the Falkland Islands when relatives of men killed in the 1982 conflict were returning from the first, government-sponsored pilgrimage to the graves of men killed in the conflict. Its aims are to maintain and strengthen friendship between relatives and friends and with the Falkland Islanders. Practical and financial help is also provided where possible.

Sir Rex Hunt thanked Des Keoghane for his friendship and co-operation with the Falkland Islands Association of which he has been made an honorary member. Des served in the Army for 24 years and is now Sergeant Major of Berkhamstead School Combined Cadet Force. **Harold Briley**



Sukey Cameron, Des Keoghane and Sarah Jones with the gifts presented to Des on his retirement as Chairman

Des was presented with a painting -- by Falkland Islander Jamie Peck -- depicting the Welsh Guards Memorial at Fitzroy where his son, Lance-Sergeant Kevin Keoghane, was killed in the Argentine air attack on the landing craft SIR GALAHAD. The picture was handed over by the Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, Miss Sukey Cameron, who expressed gratitude on behalf of the Government and people of the Islands. He was also presented with a set of whisky decanters from all members of the Association. It was something of a family occasion as his wife Nina was presented with a bouquet of flowers for her work behind the scenes. And tributes were paid to their daughter in law, Mrs Jane Keoghane, Kevin's widow, as she handed over the secretary's job to Mrs Cynthia Middlewick, watched by her son, Philip, born in 1982 four months after his father was killed.

Des, in turn, paid tribute to Sarah Jones' hard work as vice-chairman and as a high-profile fund-raiser for the Association. They have been a highly successful team in leading the



Mrs Sarah Jones, widow of Colonel Jones VC, and the new Chairman of the Falklands Families Association

The Great White Whale: Tribute to Canberra

We Will Never Give Up the Falklands - Margaret Thatcher

Britain will never give up the Falkland Islands to Argentina. That pledge was made in 1982 and recalled by Lady Thatcher at a fifteenth anniversary dinner aboard the P and O liner Canberra at Southampton in April. It is a pledge, she said, that she believes will be kept by all future governments. Lady Thatcher was speaking to a gathering of British forces commanders and others involved in the Task Force, including the Duke of York who fought as a helicopter pilot. She recalled how she had come to make the pledge at the 1982 Memorial Service for those who lost their lives in response to an appeal from the mother of a 19-year-old Scottish soldier killed in the campaign. The mother had said to Prime Minister Thatcher: "You'll never let the Falkland Islands go, will you?". Margaret Thatcher said she replied: "No, Never". At the Canberra anniversary dinner she was applauded when she declared: "I believe that pledge will be honoured by future Prime Ministers, Parliament and people of our great country, that we may finally honour all of those who gave their lives for the liberty and land of the Falkland Islands". In winning the war, she said, Britain had restored the territory and people to their rightful heritage.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, Chief of Defence Staff in 1982, paid particular tribute to the ships and men of the Merchant Navy, who made up so much of the Task Force. Admiral Lewin said it would not have been possible without them. They were absolutely vital to success. Lord Lewin paid a moving tribute to Captain Nick Barker, RN, of HMS ENDURANCE, who died just before the anniversary.

The Great White Whale

Lord Lewin called Canberra a ship of illustrious memory. P & O's Chairman, Lord Sterling, who hosted the dinner, said "the Great White Whale" as she became known in the Falklands War, is a very special ship and she has a special place in our hearts. She landed most of the ground troops and also acted as a hospital and prisoner of war ship. She saw tragedy and triumph and sailed home to Southampton to a rapturous welcome. The anniversary was a nostalgic occasion with the Canberra centre stage, as she is shortly to make her final cruise in September, before P & O disposes of her, possibly to be scrapped. Canberra spent 94 days away on active service, covering 25,000 nautical miles, and carrying 6,500 troops and



Lord Sterling, Chairman of P & O, with his guests, Lady Thatcher and Prince Andrew.

3167 Argentine prisoners. At the time of the invasion, Canberra was on a Mediterranean cruise. In only one week, she was converted for war, to carry helicopters and troops, and sailed on April 9. The original intention had been to keep her at a distance in safer waters, as happened with the Cunard liner, QE2, which was not allowed into the war zone because of the emotion her name would arouse if sunk. But Canberra was essential for landing the troops and repeatedly braved Argentine air attack in San Carlos Water, to land the first wave of troops and others later transferred to her from the QE2. She was positioned in shallow water so that, if sunk, her upper decks would be clear of the water. Canberra was one of the first ships to fire upon enemy Argentine aircraft.

Commodore Michael Clapp, who was in command of the amphibious operation, is on record as saying that "the loss at sea in deep water of Canberra would have brought the whole enterprise to a halt...With her great cathedral-like engine rooms, she would sink like a stone if damaged underwater ... The thought of taking Canberra with three major fighting units embarked, into Falkland Sound always filled me with horror It was obvious the Great White Whale was a prime target. The Argentines could hardly miss her presence, nor her significance".

Harold Briley



Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Lewin, addressing the Reception. He was Chief of the Defence Staff in 1982.

Falklands News

New Construction in Stanley

A new Administration Building, new Public Works Department and new Police Station all received the go ahead in February EXCO, too late for the last *Newsletter*. All are likely to be above the present power station and Cable and Wireless earth station. New sheltered housing on Stanley House grounds is planned too, and a workers' camp. With funding agreed, an architect is now being sought. The target date for completion is the year 2,000. A new FIDF building was proposed too. The Town Hall is likely to be extended when the Public Works Department moves from the dockyard area. Plans have also been sent to The Planning and Building Committee for a new public jetty development with new customs and fisheries offices. Five new buildings in all.

New Management at Woodbine Bakery

Chris Hawksworth takes over as manager of the Woodbine bakery at the age of 20. He plans to increase staff to prevent any possibility of bread shortages. The Woodbine bakery supplies most of Stanley and some camp settlements.

Point to Point

Martin Smith and Edgar Morrison successfully completed a sponsored East Falklands point to point journey in their Landrover Discovery. The two men travelled 328 miles in 15 hours and 48 minutes. Stephen Luxton guessed the mileage to within 4 miles, and Paul Chapman guessed the time within a minute. The journey raised money for charity.

Killer Whales at Goose Green

Three Killer Whales have been seen on several occasions in the bay at Goose Green. Locals nicknamed them the "Three Willies" by analogy with the film "Free Willie".

MPA Open Day

Mount Pleasant Airport and Mare Harbour were both open to the public on March 8th. Equipment was on show at MPA, and a long queue developed for the Go-Carts on the apron. The dog handlers put on a display. At Mare Harbour bone-jarring rides in a rigid raider were available, as were trips in a Bristows helicopter and a tour of the bridge of HMS LEEDS CASTLE. Coffee, tea, hotdogs, etc were all available.

South Georgia Church Reroofed

The Lutheran Church at Grytviken was reroofed this austral summer by four BAS men returning from Antarctica. Dennis Carter, Ben Hodges and George Brown, led by John Gallsworthy broke their journey there and took advantage of the good weather to carry out this urgently needed task.

Sad Loss

Mr. James Hart of Turners at MPA was taken seriously ill on the evening of March 4th. He was rushed by helicopter to KEMH in Stanley, the Sea King having to make several passes over the triangle due to fog before landing. He was rushed to Montevideo where he sadly died the next day.

Horticultural Show

The Horticultural show took place on March 15th. Amongst many other prize winners were: Michelle Evans who won the Hunt Trophy for the most points received by an

exhibitor from camp and the Haskard Challenge Cup for the most points in the Flower, Vegetable and Cookery Classes; Ron and Linda Binnie won the Ferguson Challenge Trophy for the most points in the Vegetable Classes; June Besley-Clarke, won the Silver Challenge Bowl presented by Mrs E.J.White for the best flower arrangement. Tanya McCullum won the Simon Summers Challenge Cup for most points in the Children's Section.

Cape Dolphin Road Opened

H.E. Governor Ralph officially opened the new road to Cape Dolphin in April, and unveiled a commemorative plaque recording the names of all who had contributed to the work. The event was celebrated by a party at Cape Dolphin Farm.

Pagers Available in Stanley

Cable and Wireless have opened a pager service, with a range up to five miles around Stanley.

Girl Guides Association

Mrs Jean Smith has completed her five year appointment as Commissioner. She will be succeeded by Mrs Marilyn Grimmer. The Association hopes to send two Guides to an International Camp in the UK in July.

Black Powder Pistol Competition

Graham Didlick won this antique pistol competition at the end of March, followed by Ped, Ian Bury, Simon Goss, Mike Graham and Zane Hirtle.

Fire at Walker Creek

An outhouse/workshop containing spares parts, paint and tools was a total loss to fire on March 22nd. Luckily nobody was hurt and vehicles parked nearby were saved.

Artist Visits South Georgia

Falklands artist Jamie Peck, visited South Georgia for two weeks sponsored by the Shackleton Fund. He brought back more than 30 sketches which will be exhibited in the Community School on May 17th and 18th. Mr. Peck described the scenery of South Georgia as too awesome to comprehend in the time he was there. One of his pictures will go to the FIG, another to the South Georgia Whaling Museum.

Naturalist Injured

Well known naturalist, Tony Soper, had his leg badly broken at Cooper bay, South Georgia in March. The accident occurred when the cable broke as the Zodiac launch he was in was being winched onboard the Russian cruise ship *Professor Milchanov*, and he was hit by the falling block and tackle.

The ship promptly sailed for Stanley, where an orthopaedic surgeon from the U.K. pinned the fracture. Tony and an injured seaman were then flown to Britain on the Tristar.

Football Success in Chile

Visiting Punta Arenas for six days in March, Stanley's football club drew 1 - 1 with *Club Espanol*, then beat the *University of Magellanes* 5 - 4 in a penalty shootout, but lost 7 - 1 to the champions of Southern Chile, *Cosal*.

There was huge media interest in Punta after Stanley was filmed for TV at practice.

New Boss for FLH

Mr. Colin Horton, an experienced agriculturalist from New Zealand, has been appointed Managing Director of Falkland Land Holdings. He has first and postgraduate degrees in agriculture and from 1987 to '94 worked for AEL limited as their Regional Director in Europe, dealing with some 13 countries including the Czech and Slovak Republics, Bulgaria, Mongolia and Russia. From 1994 until now he has worked as Managing Director of Agricultural Developments (NZ) Ltd., a firm with wide agricultural interests.

Record Trout

Robin Lee of Port Howard Lodge reports an excellent season's fishing on the Warrah and Chartres rivers with many guests recording their "best ever catches" of sea trout. The largest of all was a 16lb monster taken with a fly on the Green Hill stream, with 13 other smaller trout, in one day this April by Lt. David Eame. His "ghilly" for the day was former CBFFI Admiral Kit Layman, who is well-known in the Falklands for his prowess with rod and line.

Commercial Fishing Activity

Falklands fishing activity reached its peak for the year at the end of March and in early April. Ninety-one vessels, mainly Korean or Japanese, were fishing for *Illex* in the north-west of the zone. Catches got off to a slow start, but then improved considerably. Twenty tons per night was the average and the total for the first week in April was 9,700 tons.

Catches of *Loligo* have also improved and in the first week of April vessels were averaging 11 tons per night.

Marriage on Sea Lion Island

Andrea Gray, eldest daughter of David and Patricia Gray, and Gus Clausen of Stanley were married on the Island on March 29th. The ceremony was performed by Brook Hardcastle JP - his fifteenth to date. Twenty-four family and friends gathered on the Island, courtesy of FIGAS, the government airline.

Births

On March 20th, to Janet and Joost Pompert, a daughter, Sorrel Freya. On March 29th, to Sarah and Mike Allan, a son, Frederick Michael, 6lbs 11oz. On April 9th, to Hayley and Tim Bonner, a son, Declan William, 5lbs 14oz.

National No Smoking Day

March 12th saw all students at the Community School and all visitors to Stanley Sports Centre being given the chance to use a carbon monoxide meter to measure the effect on them of smoking - active or passive - as part of a display mounted by a Health Awareness Team for King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Stanley.

Pilot Whales on Beach at Chartres

About 40 pilot whales beached themselves close to Chartres settlement in West Falklands at the beginning of April; the third such beaching in living memory. Six years ago, 80 beached themselves, and Councillor Luxton, owner of Chartres farm, can remember another beaching when he was a boy.

There are a number of theories as to why such beachings occur. Efforts have been made to refloat these stranded mammals, but without success. Once having beached themselves in this way, it seems that the whales are unable to recover their equilibrium. When moved into deep water they tend to roll onto their sides and drown.

FIDC Fire

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation building on Airport Road was badly damaged by fire in the early morning of Wednesday March 26th. Luckily most records were saved thanks to their fire proof filing cabinets. As a result, FIDC is temporarily working out of the Parish Hall.

Aero-Magnetic Survey

A Cessna 421, owned by Canadian company *Brucelandair* and operated by aerial survey company *Aerodat* has just completed a magnetic survey of tranches A and F in the northern oil exploration zone for licence holders *Amerada Hess* and *IPC Sands Eritrea Ltd.*

Operating with a crew of five "the plane with a sting in its tail", a reference to the 12ft long boom protruding from the rear of the fuselage, became a familiar sight over Stanley. The boom holds a video camera and, at the very tip, a magnetometer, which acquires the information from the sea bed.

Seismic Activities

The *Akademic Lazerev*, which is acquiring seismic data in the Area of Special Cooperation to the South West of the Falklands, came into Stanley for a crew change in early April. It was followed a week later by the *Simon Labrador*, which is working to the north of the Islands.

Councillor Injured

While in London on the return journey from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists meeting in Dallas, Councillor Wendy Teggart broke her leg in an accident. She was taken to University College Hospital for treatment and was able to return to the Falklands just a week later.

Chile Link Experiences Problems

At the end of March, when the lease on the plane expired, Chilean Airline DAP ceased its weekly service by Boeing 737 from Punta Arenas to Stanley. Financial troubles with DAP appears to have been the principal reason. The service is continuing with the much smaller King-Air plane used before the Boeing was put into service last year.

Negotiations for another service have begun with several Chilean companies, including *Nacional*, *Avant* and *Lan Chile*. Hugh Normand, Director of FIDC, was quoted in *Penguin News* as saying "negotiations are very slow, but at least there are no negative vibes". Consideration is also being given to a possible Falklands owned air link via Montevideo to Sao Paulo. This may also include a leg to Punta Arenas.

Another Boeing 737, from *Avant*, landed at MPA on April 9th. This had been chartered by Stanley Growers, the operators of Stanley's hydroponic farm, to ensure delivery of fresh produce from Chile to several fishing vessels.

Rifle Shooting

The Falkland Islands Defence Force Rifle Association held its annual 900 and 1,000 yard championships in April. Winner at 900 yards was Susan Whitney with an excellent 72 out of a possible 75. Harry Ford won at 1,000 yards with 68.

The postponed Easter meeting and Stan Smith Shield was won by Tony Petterson with 140 out of a possible 150. He beat Ken Aldridge, who also had 140 points, in a tie shoot.

Governor Visits South Georgia

HE Governor Ralph paid a visit to South Georgia for 8 days in April.

The Falklands in Photos



MPA Open Day. Above: John Coutts (with burger) and Robin Smith (with hotdog) in the wide open spaces of the main hangar.



Above Right: Mathew Burnett makes friends with Sgt Duke (the dog).

Below: Carts are Go on the MPA apron.



Stanley's Netball team in action



Left: Mr. David Higgins, the new headmaster of the Community School in Stanley, with his wife Susanna and son Alexander.

All Photos from Penguin News except where shown



Freda Alazia shows off a particularly attractive Falklander sweater.

Below the Falklander sweater in production in St Mary's Hall. L to R are Freda Alazia, Iris Findlayson and Marylin Ford.



Double first for Stanley? The double wedding of Ivan Gough and Phyllis Collier, left, and Tony McLaren and Caroline Butler right on February 22nd, too late for the last Newsletter.

Caroline's bridesmaids were Mandy McKay, sister of the groom, and nieces Lucy and Joan Butler. Phyllis's bridesmaids were her sister Pam and her two daughters Roselene and Tansy



Above: Robbie Burnett at work on Falklands Focus, the newspaper produced once a year by students at the F.I. Community School. Falklands Focus won a distinction in the Newspaper Day competition and representatives will go to the prize giving in June at the Houses of Parliament



Above: The National Stud flock taken during the Agricultural Department Open Day.

Right: Sgt Boe and his team of dog handlers present a cheque for £548 to Matron at King Edward Memorial Hospital, Stanley

Photo: Courtesy the RAF



Sport and Pantomime Photos



Hill Cove Sports: In brilliant weather, racing took place in April. Above: Authur and Elane Turner on the left, Paul Peck and Councillor Bill Luxton. While (Above Right) Alex Blake takes a breather, as does a military visitor (Far Right).

Below: The serious business of racing gets under way. *Photos: Jenny Turner*



Above: Spectators look on eagerly at Stanley Mini-Sports

Above Right: Liza Riddell, Penguin News Editor, flanked by junior riders at Stanley Mini-Sports

Right: Riders at full gallop during the Fitzroy Sports, led by fifteen year old Mathew McMullen, on *Porsche*. Mathew went on to win all four of his races, including the Governor's Cup.





Jack and the Beanstalk: FIODA's latest production, took place in the Town Hall, Stanley at the end of March.

Above: King Shadro (James Adamczuk) and the villagers enjoy the sight of Giant Usborne on his knees - although (above right) Giant Usborne off stage proves to be Peter Burnard, and anything but hostile.



Below: Giant Usborne lords it over the long-suffering Maid Mollymawk (Chantal Conway). Below right: Dame Empanada (Andrew Coe) pleads with an un-sympathetic Squire Orf (Patrick Watts).



The Mount Tumbledown Run getting under way with 136 runners, including Councillor Birmingham, Head Master David Higgins and English teacher Veronica Fowler. Marty Barnes won, followed by Leiv Poncet and Daniel Biggs. Tamara Morrison was first for the Ladies followed by Claire Kilmartin and Sarah Forster.

Captain Nick Barker, CBE: Hero of the Falklands

We regret to record that Captain Nicholas Barker RN, Commander of the Royal Navy's Antarctic Patrol vessel, HMS Endurance during the 1982 Falklands War, died at his home in Northumberland, on April 7, aged 63. He was a hero of that war and a friend of the Falklands, as Harold Briley recalls in this our tribute to him.

Captain Nick Barker RN was above all a man of courage — in the way he lived and the way he died. He demonstrated that courage in full measure as Captain of the Royal Navy's Ice Patrol ship HMS Endurance with which his name is forever associated for his part in the Falklands War. He fought not one but three wars — against the Argentines, against what he called complacency, incompetence and misjudgment in high places in Britain, and against the planned scrapping of his own ship.

His physical courage at sea was matched by his moral courage in his relentless campaign against the decision of Defence Secretary John Nott to scrap Endurance with other vessels in the 1981 Defence Cuts. As a man of principle and forthright integrity, he jeopardised his own promotion prospects, by challenging senior Admirals, officials, Ministers and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher herself. He argued strenuously for retention of Britain's military presence in the Falklands and the Antarctic, emphasising its potential of immense mineral wealth. Scrapping Endurance, he warned, would lead Argentina to believe Britain no longer cared about the Falklands and Antarctic and give the green light for Argentine aggression. It did not endear him any the more for being proved right by history.

He combined high intelligence with an easy affability but steely determination in causes he believed to be right. As one of the youngest Captains in the Royal Navy, he could almost certainly be promoted Admiral in normal circumstances.



Captain Barker and the "Red Plum"

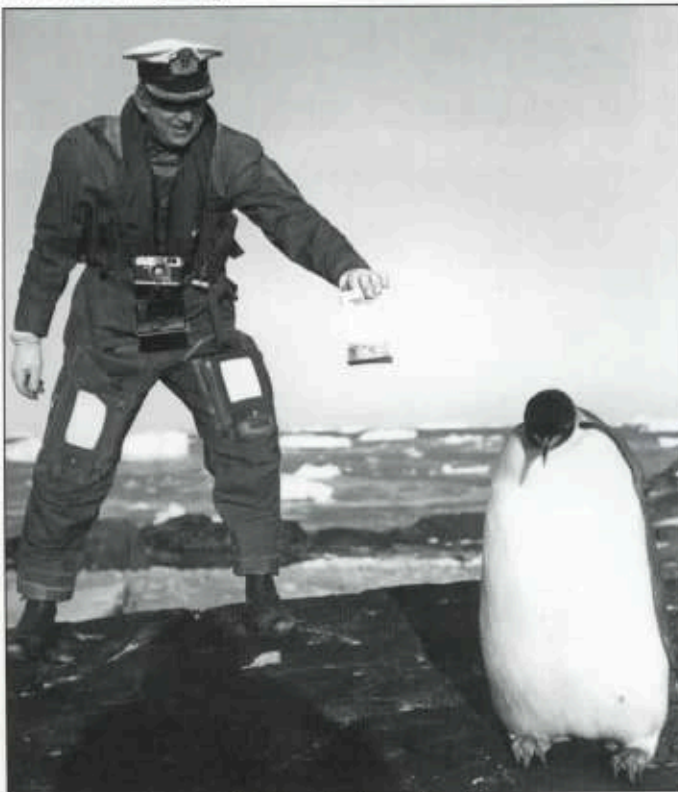
The South Atlantic in 1982 could in no way be regarded as normal circumstances. His war began long before any one else's. With great prescience and knowledge of the region and close contact with Argentine naval officers, he accurately gauged the Junta's warlike intentions and repeatedly warned Whitehall — only for his warnings to fall on deaf ears until the fateful invasion itself.

He wrote in his diary: "This is the worst day of my life. Why had the Ministry of Defence not listened to my warnings? Why hadn't the Government repeated the strategy of 1977 and sent a small deterrent force to the South Atlantic that day. It had worked then. Why not now?"

London finally woke up and sent the famous Foreign Office message to Governor Rex Hunt that invasion was imminent, adding "You will wish to make your dispositions accordingly"! Rex Hunt's forewarnings, like Nick Barker's, had been ignored in favour of faulty intelligence information and inaccurate misinterpretation of events by the British Embassy in Buenos Aires. In blunt naval language, he despaired of what he called "incompetent diplomats, bloody-minded mandarins and lying Argentines". "The Ambassador (the late Anthony Williams) and Whitehall making 'Tut, Tut' noises — he said — is not impressing the Argentines".

By contrast, Captain Barker's performance, skill and seamanship in gale-lashed seas in a ship that was not easily manoeuvrable, greatly impressed his own crew, his colleagues on the Task Force, and even the enemy, whose ships off South Georgia greatly outnumbered his lightly armed Endurance, painted not in battle grey, but bright red, "the Red Plum", as she was affectionately known.

In light-humoured contrast to his hazardous predicament, Nick Barker described how he hugged the coastline to escape radar detection, pretending to be an iceberg as he played hide and seek with the Argentine warships. He later learned that Endurance was targeted through its periscope by the Argentine submarine Santa Fe, whose captain had previously met and admired Captain Barker. The submarine never fired its torpedoes and was later put out of action by Endurance's helicopters. Endurance was to play a vital role in providing intelligence to the Task Force and in the recapture of South Georgia. She came home in triumph, having survived both the Argentines and the scrapheap.



Captain Barker in happier times

INQUIRY "A WHITEWASH"

Captain Barker regarded the conflict as avoidable, and the Franks Inquiry clearing the Thatcher Government of negligence as a "whitewash". As defence cuts continue, he believed Britain has not learned from its mistakes. His contempt for what he called "arrogance and incompetence in the corridors of power" was matched by his pride in, and admiration for, the armed forces he served so well, his affection for *Endurance* and her crew, his regard for the Falkland Islanders, for "their warmth, camaraderie and neighbourliness", and his fascination with the Antarctic.

He was born into a naval and military tradition. His father was a destroyer Captain killed in 1940. One of his mother's ancestors led the cavalry in the Battle of Waterloo. As an orphan, he was brought up by his grandfather, also a Naval captain. Nick Barker joined the Navy in 1951, serving in eight sea-going commands and the Ministry of Defence. He left the Navy in 1988 to become immersed in a host of activities. He was awarded a CBE and a Defence Fellowship at Churchill College, Cambridge, founded an international trading company, North European Marine Services, became Chairman of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fisherman, a Council Member of the British Maritime Foundation, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a freeman of the City of London, a Younger Brother of Trinity House, and Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Tyne and Wear. His first marriage to Elizabeth Redman was dissolved. He is survived by his second wife Jennifer, four grown-up children, and two step-children.

Nick Barker earned a lasting memorial in the Antarctic. As an outstanding seaman and navigator in the great tradition and camaraderie of Antarctic explorers, he carried out hydrographic surveys in uncharted waters. In a hazardous escape, *Endurance* narrowly avoided becoming impaled on a massive underwater pinnacle off James Ross Island. "This rocky pinnacle has since been named 'Barker Bank'. I earned an



Captain Barker takes the surrender of the notorious Alfredo Astiz at South Georgia

appropriate kind of marine immortality by giving my name to a serious hazard to shipping"!

Dubbed "Captain Courageous" by a fellow Falklands Commander, he fought a long battle against cancer with the same courage and fortitude as he displayed in the South Atlantic. A few days before his death, he telephoned me from hospital to talk of his plans for the future and for writing a biography, to follow his own very personal book of the Falklands war, published only a week before he died. It's called "Beyond *Endurance*" ... a fitting epitaph for a brave man.

Harold Briley

Memorial Service

The Thanksgiving Service for the life of Captain Barker will be held on Wednesday the 11th June at 3pm at Southwark Cathedral (Not at All Hallows by the Tower at 11am as indicated earlier). All enquiries to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen Tel: 0171-487-5101.

Below: HMS *Endurance* in Antarctic Waters



Book Review: Beyond Endurance

As we mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Falklands War, we make no excuse for giving generous space to two outstanding officers: Captain Nick Barker of HMS Endurance, and Commodore Michael Clapp, Commander of the Amphibious Assault Forces, who provide fascinating facets of how the war was won and sometimes nearly lost in two very readable books.

BEYOND ENDURANCE, An Epic of Whitehall and the South Atlantic, by Captain Nick Barker. Published by Leo Cooper, 190 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC 2H 8JL. Price £19.95, hardback, 254 Pages including Foreword, with illustrations, 6.25 x 9.5 inches. ISBN 0 85052 522 5.

Of all the many books about the Falklands, this is the one I've waited for most eagerly. Nick Barker was the prescient prophet who knew more about the gathering storm which broke over the Falklands in April 1982 than almost anyone. His repeated warnings to the British Government were ignored until Endurance found herself dangerously alone facing overwhelming military odds as the Argentines occupied South Georgia and invaded the Falkland Islands. Nick Barker was, as he put it, "first in and last out".

He had fought hard and long to save his ship from swingeing cuts planned for the Navy which would have scrapped Endurance and other vessels essential for winning the war. It was a close-run thing, as Nick Barker points out. If the Argentines had delayed their invasion by only a few months, and those cuts had gone ahead, there could have been no Task Force or rescue for the Islanders. Astonishingly, no contingency plans were drawn up by Margaret Thatcher's Government to react to an invasion despite Nick Barker's warnings.

Argentine Warning

He had for months previously collected precise pointers, not least from Chilean naval and political sources but especially from Argentine naval officers themselves. He recalls how in the Ushuaia Naval Base, Captain Russo told him: "You are in the Malvinas War Zone". Nick Barker said: "I laughed and asked whom the Argentines were going to fight". Without a flicker of emotion, Captain Russo replied: "You". Later, taking brandy together, Russo said: "There is going to be war against the Malvinas. I do not know when but I think quite soon", adding, "This is very good brandy, Captain".

Detested Astiz

Captain Barker got on well with some Argentine Naval Officers but detested others, not least Alfredo Astiz (see The Disappeared ... Page 19), South Georgia Garrison Commander. Astiz first refused to surrender and vowed to "fight to the death". Then he changed his mind and agreed to surrender suggesting the football pitch as the venue. Nick Barker, reluctant to land in an area controlled by Argentine troops, changed the rendezvous at the last moment. The football pitch was later found to be heavily mined. "One booby trap", Nick Barker says, "was particularly fiendish, with wires leading to the middle of the pitch where they had marked an H for helicopter landing. That could so easily have been the end of the helicopter, crew and the poor mug delegated to accept the surrender. Astiz told me he had found the prospect vaguely amusing. I told him that the white flag obviously meant nothing to him and that I did not share his sense of humour".

South Sandwich failure

Captain Barker reminds us of the long-term significance of the Callaghan Government's failure to react to the Argentine establishment of a base — allegedly "scientific", but in fact military, on Southern Thule in the South Sandwich Islands as early as 1977. About 45 naval personnel stayed there. The Government kept it secret from Parliament and people. The response was to stand back, and let them get on with it. "This lack of commitment was noted. My exchanges with Whitehall and the Foreign Office made it clear that I was not to upset the apple cart by doing something as provocative as landing at the base". Captain Barker told London: "If Endurance is withdrawn it is very possible that the Argentines will establish a base on South Georgia there as they have already done on Southern Thule". In fact, the Base Commander on South Georgia found ample evidence that they had been ashore. Chalked on the Emergency Depot at Leith was a dated notice claiming possession of South Georgia in the name of Argentina.

"First Bite of the Sandwich"

I can fill in some of the facts which Nick Barker so accurately guesses. The Argentine Commander who drew up the 1982 invasion plan, Admiral Lombardo, later told me that Argentina's intention all along had been to occupy the British South Atlantic Islands by stealth. In a memorable metaphorical phrase, he told me: "Southern Thule was the first bite of the Sandwich"! It is appropriate that the very last action of the Falklands War was the recapture of Southern Thule by Nick Barker and Endurance on June 20th.

"Faceless People in Whitehall"

In his campaign to save Endurance, Nick Barker enlisted the support of influential Parliamentarians, led by Lords Shackleton and Buxton, and stressed the economic potential of the region: "Both the Antarctic Continent and the continental shelf will offer immense mineral wealth in the not too distant future I hope those distinguished but faceless people in Whitehall realise the potential of the Antarctic before it is too late".

Nick Barker had a high regard for the Falkland Islanders, and writes of their "warmth and camaraderie". Despite the isolation of many farms, he says, there is a real sense of "community and neighbourliness". On March 21, he was enjoying a buffet supper in Stanley when he received instructions for Endurance to go into action by sailing to South Georgia. "Our first Council of War, for surely that was what it was, was held right there in Hulda Stewart's kitchen".

The RED PLUM, as Endurance was affectionately called, was not an easy ship to control. The book gives a hilarious account of bad weather by Nick Barker's Leading Steward Deacon: "Any ship in a force ten gale is bad. In Endurance it's hell. I learned a new trick. I could fall forwards without bending my knees, touch the floor, and then return to the vertical all in one movement. It's impossible on land, but easy on Endurance"!

After retiring from the Navy, Nick Barker had one last battle to fight. Ten years after their first campaign, he joined forces again with Lord Shackleton and others in a bid to save the Endurance or have her replaced by another ship with the same name. Again, they succeeded. **Harold Briley**

The Longest Day - San Carlos Troop Landings

Amphibious Commander's Awesome Responsibility

AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT FALKLANDS — The Battle of San Carlos Water by Michael Clapp and Ewen Southby-Tailyour, published by Leo Cooper, Pen and Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2AS. Hardback, 300 pages with Foreword, with pictures illustrations and maps. Price: £18.95

The awesome responsibility of landing thousands of British troops at San Carlos to recover the Falklands fell to Commodore Michael Clapp, a quiet spoken Devonian, with more than 30 years in the Navy including war experience in Korea. It could not have been a better choice. When at their most vulnerable and under relentless attack from the Argentine Air Force, which could have turned the landing into disaster, he succeeded against all the odds. He has told his story for the first time, in co-operation with Royal Marines Major Ewen Southby-Tailyour, whose unrivalled knowledge of Falklands waters and coastline was vital to the whole operation.

What emerges from the book is the remarkable rapport he built up with Land Force Commander, Brigadier Julian Thompson, who led 3rd Commando Brigade to victory, the complexity of landing such a large force from the sea so far from home with so much weaponry, the occasional fatal failure of communications, inter-services rivalry, differences of view, and the prevarication and sometimes stupidity of politicians back home. He criticises Defence Secretary John Nott for public pronouncements that increased the danger facing the Task Force and for Defence Ministry information, announced by the BBC, that Argentine bombs were not fused to explode properly. Commodore Clapp "seethed with anger", declaring: "All our attempts at secrecy were a waste of time for when we sailed our own Secretary of State announced the fact to the waiting world on the BBC, thus allowing even an uneducated Argentine with a global chart to make an intelligent guess at our time of arrival off the Falklands".

Michael Clapp finds it incomprehensible that the British Government and Royal Navy made no contingency plans despite an intelligence assessment in July 1981 which warned of "high risk of Argentina resorting ... swiftly and without warning ... to military action against British shipping or full-scale



Commodore Mike Clapp, RN,

Photo HMS Excellent

invasion" ... "While unexpected by Mrs Thatcher's government", he says, "the invasion neither surprised the Islanders, the (Military) Intelligence Committee nor the Royal Navy".

Amphibious Assault describes how Michael Clapp and his team desperately fought off Argentine air attacks and how they remedied the chaos which resulted from politically dictated rapid and frenetic departure from Britain within days of the invasion. Shortage of vital equipment especially helicopters caused fearful problems. The two assault ships essential to landing the troops and equipment, FEARLESS and INTREPID — were granted a limited reprieve from Defence Secretary Nott's cuts as late as February 1982.

Reluctant Army and RAF

First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, is praised for challenging Nott's defeatist prognosis that "the Falklands, once taken, could not be retaken". Commodore Clapp blames this assessment on the heads of the Army and Air Force who dragged their feet, reluctant to commit themselves to what they considered a mission that could not be convincingly won.

It was this conflicting advice which led to prevarication over whether there should be a clear cut plan to repossess the islands or just gain a foothold as a bargaining counter. Clapp's worry and confusion worsened when he learned of a plan not to capture Stanley but just to "put the flag back on the islands - somewhere, anywhere.... There seemed to be no strategy behind our orders at all". Commodore Clapp and Brigadier



A Harrier takes-off. The war-winning weapon, without which the whole operation would have been impossible.

Tony Lloyd Confirmed as Minister of State

Tony Lloyd MP, who has been Labour's spokesman on the Falklands and Latin America, has been appointed a Minister of State at the Foreign Office. The Labour leadership has already declared there will be no change in British policy towards Argentina on their sovereignty claim. Mr. Lloyd unequivocally supports the Falkland Islanders' right to self-determination. He is on record as declaring that "sovereignty is a matter for the people who live there.... It is for them to decide their own future".

He rejects Argentina's renewed proposal for shared Anglo-Argentine sovereignty. In answer to Argentina's campaign for the removal of the ban on Argentines visiting the Islands while they persist with their sovereignty claim, Mr. Lloyd says this, too, is a matter for the Islanders to decide, not the British Government. But he thinks this should be re-examined in view of the fact that Argentines with dual nationality and passports from other countries can visit the Islands. He supports Argentine humanitarian visits by relatives to the graves of their war dead.

The sovereignty issue aside, he advocates better relations and co-operation with a democratic Argentina for the mutual benefit of Britain, Argentina and the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Lloyd, who is 47, is a former university lecturer, educated at Stretford Grammar School, Nottingham University and Manchester Business School. As MP for a Manchester



constituency since 1983, he has been a Labour Party spokesman on Foreign Affairs, the environment and London, employment, education, and transport. He's also a former district councillor. He's married with three daughters and a son, and describes his recreations as "Family". His special interests include civil liberties, human rights, immigration, race relations, and overseas development.

Amphibious Assault Falklands, Contd.

Thompson, two "comparatively junior commanders", planned from the outset for total repossession.

They regarded the recapture of South Georgia and the "ill-conceived" Battle for Goose Green as tactically unsound and unnecessary, done for political reasons, wasting valuable time and scarce resources. The overall Commander of the Task Force back in Britain, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, had difficulty getting the extra forces he needed, and Commodore Clapp criticises the calibre of the extra 5th Infantry Brigade which "had not worked together ... and had deficiencies in logistic support, lacked understanding of joint operations, and had near nonexistent communications". He blames the impetuosity of its energetic Commander, Brigadier Tony Wilson, for hasty decisions that led to tragedy at Fitzroy with the bombing of the landing ships SIR GALAHAD and SIR TRISTRAM with heavy casualties. "I placed too much trust in the 5 Brigade" says Clapp, who by contrast praises the professionalism and exploits of Brigadier Thompson's 3 Commando Brigade and the SAS and SBS.

Clapp reveals that consideration was given to destroying Stanley's water supply, abandoned because it would have caused great hardship to the civilians as well as the enemy.

"I pondered what the Islanders thought of it all.... If our luck was anything to go by, the Almighty was undoubtedly on our side (and probably a Falkland Islander)".

Woodward's War of Words

The book has caused a new conflict — this time a war of words with Admiral Sandy Woodward, Commander of the Task Force, who has bombarded Commodore Clapp with letters challenging his version of events which Michael Clapp insists is the truth. Commodore Clapp and Brigadier Thompson repeatedly opposed or dismissed what they clearly regarded as tactless, ineffectual or downright dangerous ideas from Sandy

Woodward, including use of Carcass Island as a stores dump (too far away, indicating he had no idea of the equipment involved), construction of an air strip on West Falkland (for which the Amphibious Group had no plant, equipment or men to deploy). He ridicules Woodward's suggestion to sail all six logistic landing ships through the entrance of Stanley harbour to land on Stanley waterfront.

He criticises Woodward's withdrawal of HERMES further East for routine boiler cleaning. ".... a strange time to remove the largest airfield we had at such a critical moment when we badly needed close air support". The loss of just one major ship, such as the troopship liner CANBERRA would have been a disaster ending the whole enterprise. The liner was positioned in shallow water so that if sunk upright, the upper decks would be clear of water. Clapp says Woodward refused to bring his carrier force nearer saying he could not risk half his long-term air defence.

The Admiral, Clapp says, believed his blockade would be effective and all the Commando Brigade would have to do was to monitor the removal of a hungry, defeated army. This was nonsense because the blockade never even stopped nightly Argentine supply flights into Stanley.

Clapp and Woodward also disagreed over the efficacy of air raids to destroy the Stanley runway and over which targets to attack. Relationships with Sandy operating so far away were difficult, says Clapp. "The secure voice satellite system was infuriatingly erratic. His voice sounded like a Dalek and it was extremely difficult to hold an easy and relaxed conversation"!

Relieved of his great burden at war's end, Commodore Clapp says: "I hoped that Admiral Henry Leach would agree he had retrieved the Falkland Islands satisfactorily and that the spirit of the old "can do" Navy had once again triumphed if only just.

Harold Briley

Sir Michael Shersby and Eric Ogden

The sudden death of Conservative Member of Parliament, Sir Michael Shersby, on May 8th, only a week after his re-election, has deprived the Falklands of one of its most active supporters in Parliament and beyond. He counted Islanders among his personal friends, having visited the Falklands as an MP in 1981, along with Eric Ogden, also then an MP, who by remarkable coincidence died within days of Sir Michael. Both made further visits to the Falklands, giving them first hand knowledge of the Islands before and after the 1982 Argentine invasion. They used that knowledge to promote the Islanders' interests with energy and Parliamentary skill.

It was Sir Michael who took the lead in restoring full British citizenship and right of abode to all Falkland Islanders which had been denied them and citizens of other dependent territories by the 1981 British Nationality Act. He pushed through the House of Commons his own private member's British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Act of 1983, in a formidable partnership with Baroness Vickers who steered it through the Lords. Sir Michael's popularity and the respect he commanded in Parliament - as well as the strength of the Islanders' case - ensured the measure widespread backing. He maintained unceasing support as an influential Chairman of the all-Party British Falklands Group from 1982 until his untimely death, from a heart attack, at the age of 64.

He also had an unusual humanitarian link with Argentina as Director General of the British based Sugar Bureau and Treasurer of the World Sugar Research Organisation. He was involved in financing research by two Argentine doctors into the use of sugar to cure certain kinds of wounds in both people and animals which failed to respond to modern treatment and drugs.

Sir Michael, who was MP for the London Borough of Uxbridge for 25 years, retained the seat in the recent general election. Sir Michael was a man of many parts and wide-ranging interests. Among them, he took great interest in combating crime as Parliamentary Adviser to the Police Federation. Accompanying him on his 1983 Falklands visit, I found him to be a stimulating and knowledgeable companion, who



L to R: Eric Ogden MP, Miss Sukey Cameron, and Sir Michael Shersby MP; Stanley harbour in the background.

unfailingly renewed contact at Falklands reunions. His wise counsel will be sadly missed in the Islands and by the Falkland Islands Association. In tribute to him, the Association's Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, said: "Sir Michael was a champion and friend of the Falkland Islands, whose Parliamentary advice I regularly sought and valued".

Eric Ogden who died aged 73 from cancer, was MP for Liverpool West Derby for 19 years, first for the Labour Party then the Social Democrats, who he joined in 1981. In the aftermath of the invasion, he made trenchant speeches in Parliament demanding strong action to evict the invaders, to reject appeasement, and to investigate thoroughly the events leading to the invasion. In 1988 he opposed the idea of visits to Britain by Argentine politicians. He was for several years Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association.

We extend our sympathy to the families of these two forthright Parliamentarians and Champions of the Falklands.

H.W.B.

Calling the Falklands



In one of her first assignments as Producer of BBC programme "Calling the Falklands", Andrea Kennedy devoted the whole programme to the views and ambitions of young Falkland Islanders attending Peter Symmonds College at Winchester. Left: she talks to



Sacha Clarke. Above: she talks to Alastair Summers, Kate Diggle, Mark Pollard and Sacha.

Photos: Harold Briley

Di Tella - Back a month after the Election

“And they’ll have to listen to me”

In Britain again in March for yet another conference conveniently organised by an Argentine academic here, Dr. Di Tella was able to call on British politicians and discuss the Falklands. At a press conference afterwards he said the best thing Argentina could do about the British Election “is to do nothing”. He added, however, that **he would be back a month after the election, “and they’ll have to listen to me”**.

Di Tella said the Falklands situation would not change with a Labour Government. He went on to say: No matter who wins the forthcoming elections, **“the islanders still have veto power, they will be consulted about every single decision. Nothing will be done without the Islanders consent”**.

In what *Clarín* described as “his first meeting with Mr. Rifkind’s successor”, Di Tella is reported to have spoken of how the Falklands issue contaminates bilateral relations, and of the incongruity of the lack of communications between the Islands and the “Argentine mainland”. He was earlier quoted as saying that “It’s hard to reach agreements with people who don’t want to see us or allow us to visit them”.

More ominously, he also said he hoped for a future British government with a big majority.

Di Tella also told journalists that he invited Britons and Islanders to a week of sun in the Caribbean. “I’m sure we would return from the Caribbean with a solution”, he said.

Editorial Comment

Dr. Guido Di Tella has been keen to develop trade and travel links with the Falklands ever since coming to office. Falkland Islanders have resisted his efforts because they suspect (with some justification) that opening up communications would be the first step down the road to sovereignty negotiations. They have been down this road before and once bitten, twice shy.

Despite Di Tella’s protestations that nothing will be done without the Islanders’ consent, he appears to hope that a British government with a big majority might be persuaded to ride roughshod over both Parliamentary opposition and Islanders’ wishes.

“Not a Shred of Truth”

Despite Di Tella’s suggestion that Argentines “do nothing” about the British election, Argentine Defence Minister Jorge Dominguez, told *Jane’s Defence Weekly* in April that:

“The transfer of the Falkland/Malvinas Islands to Argentina through diplomatic means will be assured by the outcome of the election in the United Kingdom next month “We believe the English stand will be modified” “I believe that after May 1st, a new phase of review of the Malvinas with a new (Labour) administration will start”.

Dominguez also said that flying the Argentine flag over the islands by the end of his term of office in 1999 is a top priority for President Carlos Menem, and that *Foreign Minister Guido di Tella has already had meetings with several politicians, including Labour Party leader Tony Blair*.

In a tough reply the Labour Party contradicted everything Sr. Dominguez had said. *The Sun* quoted Robin Cook, now Foreign Secretary, as saying *“we have never made this promise and never will”*.

The complete text of the Labour Party press release is:

There is not one shred of truth in the suggestion that there might be any change of policy towards the Falklands were Labour to be elected on 1st May.

If the Argentines are anticipating any change in the UK approach, they are mistaken and ignoring the clear message given to both the Islanders and to the Argentine Government over recent years.

Tony Blair has never had any meetings or discussions with Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella.

After the British General Election

Undeterred by the reaction to his earlier remarks, Jorge Dominguez, speaking at the El Palomar 1st Air Brigade Headquarters on May 6th, said that the victory of the Labour Party in Great Britain “prompted great expectations among Argentine officials concerning the possibility that London may agree to begin talks about the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands”

Year 2,000 Again and Again

President Menem was reported in April as saying: “I think that by the year 2,000, an Argentine flag may be flying on the islands that belong to us - either by sharing sovereignty with Britain or not - but surely in a much better position than the present one. In other words, we will not stray from the path we have taken if the Labour Party is successful at the polls. Nevertheless, I sincerely hope that Britain will not continue furthering the same policy vis-a-vis the Malvinas Islands if Labour is voted in. If indeed it wins the election”.

Immediately after the election several papers quoted him saying: “One always hopes that a change of Government and orientation may be positive for our claim, which is always one of sovereignty. Maybe what I have said for some time - that the Argentine flag will fly in the Islands by the year 2,000 - will now be fulfilled without war or anything like that”.

The *Daily Mail*, on May 9th, quoted Di Tella saying that Argentina would control the Falklands by the year 2,000.

“Solution Within a Year” - But only Temporary

Interviewed by *La Nacion* on May 8th, Di Tella suggested that a “solution” could be reached within a year! But he said this would have to be an “intermediate solution”.

To reconcile this with the new Argentine constitutional claim to total sovereignty of the Falklands, Di Tella said that Menem had said it was necessary to seek a lesser objective **and leave the rest to another step**. Di Tella added “Although the British said No, that opens vast possibilities”.

Di Tella said he would tell Mr. Cook that the concept of sovereignty is different in Spanish and English. The *Newsletter* has heard this nonsense before - **It isn’t different**.

The Disappeared Who Won't Go Away

The Times reported recently that the French, Swedish, Italian and German Governments are all "clamouring for justice" for some 400 of their citizens murdered in Argentina's "Dirty War". In Spain and Italy alone some 140 Argentines, now stand accused in their absence of these murders.

General Galtieri himself, author of the Falklands War, is accused of murdering four Spanish citizens in Rosario in 1977, when he was commander of the Second Army Corps there. Galtieri is reported to have described the deaths as "a regrettable mistake". Galtieri said the victims had a suitcase with a false bottom, which suggested they might have been terrorists. An international arrest warrant has now been issued for him, in case he ever leaves the security of Argentina.

In Rome a court is currently investigating the murder of six Italians and two Italian children born in Argentina. Some 70 German families are considering similar law suits, while in Sweden the Government is still pressing for justice for Dagmar Hagelin, the teenage girl murdered by Alfredo Astiz.

"I wish to see this murderer serve his sentence in France".

France continues to press for justice for 15 murdered citizens, including the two "Flying Nuns", who were allegedly thrown out of Alfredo Astiz's helicopter over the River Plate. President Chirac told President Menem recently that "I wish to see this murderer serve his sentence in France".

Astiz also commanded Argentine forces in South Georgia during the war (See page 14). Like all bullies, he didn't fight when confronted by a superior force. Instead, he had a electrically controlled mine prepared in an attempt to murder

Captain Barker, when his helicopter landed after the surrender had been agreed by radio. Despite pleas for his extradition, Astiz was handed back after the war to Argentina, in accordance with the Geneva Convention. Later, he was promoted to "Capitan de Fragata", and benefited from the Indulto.

Punto Final, Obediencia Debida and the Indultos

Referring to the warrant for Galtieri, issued by Judge Garzon, Dr. Di Tella said: "We believe that what Judge Garzon is doing is totally inadmissible and has no legal foundation. The dead are dead. The horrors committed in relation to those deaths cannot be undone .. No one in his right mind can create special jurisdictions to try in one country something that happened in another". Readers will, however, recall that this did not prevent Argentine calls for the extradition of Lady Thatcher for authorising the sinking of the *Belgrano*.

The Argentine legal situation is governed mainly by the laws forced on the Alfonsin government by the military. In 1986, Punto Final (Final Stop) was passed, which set a time limit of just two months for all further atrocity prosecutions. When more than 1000 more cases were filed before the time limit, and prosecutions already started proceeded successfully, another law, known as "Obediencia Debida" (Due Obedience) was passed. This allowed the defence that "orders are orders", and acquitted all but the most senior ranks. Finally, President Menem granted two "Indultos" or pardons; the first in 1989 and the second in 1991. These released all those convicted despite the provisions of Punto Final and Obediencia Debida. These measures prevent all action now in Argentine Courts.

Menem and Hong Kong

Appearing on Argentine TV in April, President Menem said the Chinese Government had invited him to the June 30th ceremony marking the hand-over of Hong Kong. According to *La Nacion*, Menem said: "I hope some day we will live with equal intensity and joy the transfer of the Malvinas as it should be". Defence Minister Jorge Dominguez said it was an important event in the struggle against colonialism.

However, on May 8th, Di Tella told *La Nacion* that President Menem wouldn't be going, as both the British and Chinese had pointed out that invitations were at a Foreign Minister not Presidential level. Di Tella added: for Menem to be the only president there, wouldn't be a "brilliant prospect".

Confusing Hong Kong with the Falklands

In the same interview, Di Tella misconstrued the significance of the hand-over of Hong Kong. He said: "I warned the British that I would like to point out the symbolic value which this hand-over has, as it means that Great Britain is capable of changing its opinion on the subject of sovereignty".

Editorial Comment:

Di Tella appears not to know that the New Territories of Hong Kong (93% of the territory) were only leased to the British. The return of these, and the Island of Hong Kong, (which was ceded in perpetuity, but was always known to be unviable without the New Territories), has nothing whatsoever to do with the Falklands, or the British changing their "opinion on the subject of sovereignty". Clearly the Argentines are trying to exploit a parallel which does not exist.

Belgrano Was Going To Fight

In what *La Nacion* described as a "revelation", Captain Bonzo, commander of the cruiser *General Belgrano*, said his ship was going to engage in combat when it was torpedoed. He said the ship was going east on May 1st "towards the enemy force, to form the southern branch of a pincers attack", but ... "the mission was altered and at dawn we took a westerly course toward a place where we were supposed to wait".

The Times said Argentina had always insisted the ship was not on a war footing, but that Captain Bonzo had admitted that she was on a mission to sink British ships and had told a news agency that "his ship was not in innocent transit".

Di Tella's Greeting Irritates

Taking advantage of the Queen's Birthday to again send "greetings" to Falkland Islanders, Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Di Tella, succeeded in angering everyone by writing: "I would like to repeat my sincere belief that we are getting closer to the point where differences ought to be addressed".

Councillor Luxton summed up popular feeling with the comment: "I am sickened by the fact that Di Tella uses our Queen's birthday as an excuse to impose his political rhetoric on us. For us this is a day of celebration, not an occasion to recall Argentina's claims".

Newsletter Comment: Islanders have always known that Di Tella's "goodwill" letters and unwanted presents had a touch of menace about them, and would much prefer to enjoy their holidays without them, but this is the first time that one has actually contained such an overtly political message

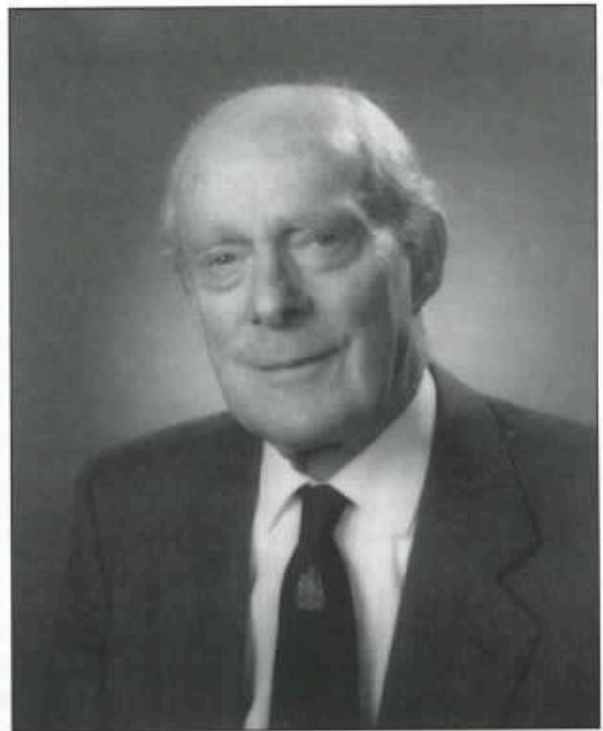
Falkland Islands Trust

At a lunch given by the Falkland Islands Government in London, Major-General Nigel Gribbon, the retiring Chairman of the Falkland Islands Trust, was honoured and his successor Captain "Paddy" Vincent welcomed.

General Gribbon has been Chairman since 1981, but at 80 years of age has regretfully decided to retire. During his time as Chairman, General Gribbon ensured the progress of a number of projects in the Falklands, particularly in the educational and agricultural fields. He was also an active sailor, Rear-Commodore of the Little Ship Club, and on the Council of the Canada/UK Chamber of Commerce. Miss Sukey Cameron, FIG Representative in London, presented him with a watercolour of Stanley Cathedral by Falklands artist, Jamie Peck, and a leather writing case by Falklands leatherworker, Colin Davies.

Elected unanimously as the new Chairman is Captain "Paddy" Vincent, who will be well known to Association members as Marshal of the Battle Day memorial ceremony at the Cenotaph.

Captain Vincent was born in Stanley in 1925 and spent his boyhood there. After leaving the Navy in 1978, he spent eight years as Head of Personnel and Administration for the Institute of Chartered Accountants, followed by seven years as a fund raiser for the Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital. He is a former member of the Falkland Islands Association Executive Committee, and half-brother to the late Air-Marshal Sir John Lapsley.



General Nigel St. G. Gribbon, OBE, the retiring Chairman of the Trust



Captain "Paddy" Vincent, the new Chairman of the Trust, photographed in the Upland Goose with members of Stanley Royal Naval Association, and (right) recording his childhood in Stanley; Captain Vincent with Vi Bonner.



Bishop Richard Cutts

The former Anglican Archbishop of Argentina from 1975 to 1989, the Right Reverend Richard Cutts, a controversial figure during the Falklands War, has died aged 77. He incurred the wrath of Islanders and others when he remarked that life under Argentine rule need not be so bad. This demonstrated insensitivity and untimely judgement, to say the least, as the Islanders experienced the trauma of occupation and Argentina itself suffered economic hardship and military rule in which thousands were tortured and murdered. Cutts himself had first-hand knowledge of this, having campaigned through human rights groups for the release of prisoners.

Bishop Cutts' responsibilities included the Falklands between 1975 and 1978 when, because of the difficult relations between Argentina and Britain, the Archbishop of Canterbury

personally resumed jurisdiction, with Bishop Cutts designated his "Commissary" for the Islands. Even that role was taken away from him when the invasion took place. Uniquely, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Clergy ministering to such a small community, each reported directly back to the heads of their churches - the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Pope.

Bishop Cutts, an Argentine born in Buenos Aires, who trained for the Ministry in Britain, tried to make the best of his difficult situation in the small Anglican community in Argentina, striving to maintain good relations and to promote reconciliation. After early church appointments in Britain, he had spent 19 years in Southern Africa as a missionary and as Dean of Salisbury in the Rhodesia of Ian Smith. He retired to Britain in 1989, becoming an Assistant Bishop at Lincoln.

Shackleton Reception Dinner

Old friends and new ones gathered in Croydon in April for a fund-raising dinner in aid of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund. The dinner was organised by Geoffrey Moir DFC, who is well known for his lectures about the Falklands, where he was a schoolteacher for four years.

Speakers included Geoff himself, Sir Rex Hunt, and Professor Cyril Lloyd, three of whose final year music students demonstrated their talents.

There was an auction of donated goods, and a raffle. Together with dinner profits the evening raised £1,055.



Above: Professor Cyril Lloyd ably acting as master of ceremonies.

Below, L to R: Mr. Bruno Schroder, Miss Sukey Cameron, The Hon Mrs Alexandra Bergel, and Dr. Miller.

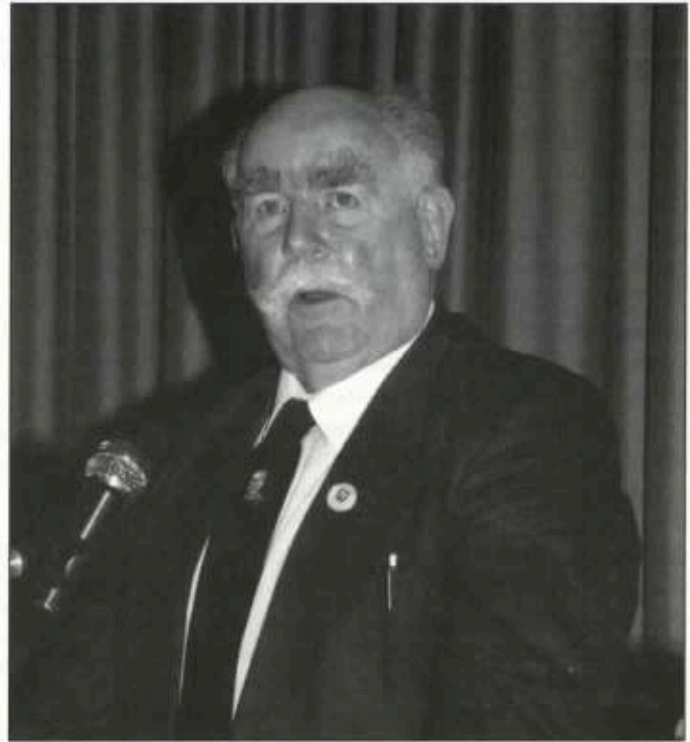


Shackleton's Banner:

The Hon Alexandra Bergel, Lord Shackleton's daughter, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the hanging of Lord Shackleton's Garter Banner in Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley, last February. The plaque, commissioned especially by the Falkland Islands Government, reads as follows:

THE BANNER OF
THE RT. HON. EDWARD ARTHUR ALEXANDER
BARON SHACKLETON
K.G. AC. OBE. PC. FRS.
1911 1994

BY HIS WISH
AND WITH KIND PERMISSION OF
GARTER KING OF ARMS



Above: Geoffrey Moir, organiser of the reception.
Photos: P.J. Pepper

Below: Sir Rex Hunt addresses the reception. On his left, the Hon Alexandra Bergel, Lord Shackleton's daughter.



Shackleton's Flag

A stained Union Jack, taken by Sir Ernest Shackleton on his 1907-1909 expedition, has been sold at Christies in London for £20,500, five times its estimated value. The flag was flown at the furthest point south reached by man at the time, 97 miles from the South Pole. It was bought by an American ship's surgeon, John Levinson, a great admirer of Shackleton. A sprig of artificial holly for a Christmas pudding taken by Shackleton on another expedition was sold for £4,025.

Antarctic Housewife by Nan Brown, published by Hutchinson of Australia, 1971, reprinted by Infographics Ltd., Cowbridge, CF71 7AL, 1996. Hardbound 190 pages, Introduction etc., 16 Photos of which one is coloured. ISSN 0 09 108510 1.

This delightful, well written, book by the late Nan Brown about the two and a half years she spent with her husband George in the 1950's on South Georgia has been republished on the initiative of her husband, who is currently revisiting South Georgia. Whaling was still in operation on South Georgia, then a Dependency of the Falkland Islands, when George Brown took up employment there as the Radio Operator at Grytviken, King Edward Cove and much to everyone's surprise, Nan, his newly wedded wife, accompanied him. Grytviken, hive of activity during the short whaling season, became annually the temporary home to some extraordinary characters, working, eating, drinking, carousing. Nan brings them all alive and tells how she coped in primitive circumstances. She also describes her own domestic life and relaxation, learning to ski, the abounding wildlife on the island and a trip on a whale killer.

Falkland Islander, the late Basil Biggs, was "the police force" on the island and there are many references, including a photo, in the book of the only other woman on South Georgia, Basil's wife Betty Biggs and their children, Peter, Janet and Colleen, now living in the Falklands and well known to so many people: Betty as the original "Falkland Islands Philatelic Bureau" and Jan as the wife of the late John Cheek.

I enjoyed reading this entertaining book very much. It described, in such human terms, the special life as it then was on South Georgia, a "time-capsule" never to reappear! It is the sort of book one can pick up, read a chapter, and then put down and then come back to again and again.

My only criticism is the complete absence of any maps. I would like to have seen two: one a world map showing the island of South Georgia and Nan's travels starting from Antwerp via South Georgia ending finally in Tokyo; secondly a map of the island of South Georgia. It is essential reading for all those interested in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

This book can be obtained from: Miles Apart, 5 Harraton House, Exning, Newmarket, Suffolk CB2 7HF. Tel: 01638 577627. Fax 01638 577874. Price £12.50 including P & P. and in the United States from Miles Apart, 5929 Avon Drive, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814, U.S.A. Tel/Fax 1301-571-8942. Price \$20 including P & P. **R.N.S.**

Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Falkland Islands by Robin and Anne Woods, illustrated by Geoffrey McMullan, published by Anthony Nelson, PO Box 9, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1BY, England. Hardbound, 25 x 17 cms, with many drawings and 190 pages in total. ISBN 0904614 60 3. Price £25

This atlas is an extremely valuable and well written account of the 75 principal Falklands bird species. It is the result of a survey carried out by a large numbers of observers during the ten breeding seasons beginning in 1983. It brings their reports together and dedicates a short section to each species, illustrating these with drawings, and providing detailed information as to habitat, distribution, numbers and breeding behaviour. It provides interesting historical notes on observations going right back to the earliest visitors and set-

ters in the Falklands. It also puts each species in its worldwide context, and indicates which are threatened by introduced mammalian predators or other factors. It provides a short account of introduced mammals.

It will undoubtedly be valuable as a base-line from which to assess the effects of future economic developments on the fauna of the Falklands. It provides an excellent bibliography and index and covers differing nomenclature where appropriate. **P.J.P.**

Malvina Bolus

The death has occurred in Victoria, BC, of Malvina Majorie Bolus O.C., who was born in the Falklands in 1906, the daughter of Dr. P.R. Bolus of the British Colonial Service and Viola Felton, and was an Association member.

The *Newsletter* extends its sympathy to her friends and relatives in Canada and the Falklands, and will publish her obituary in the next *Newsletter*.

Canon Jack Gould

We regret to announce the death at 82 of Canon Jack Gould, who was Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley, from 1953 to 1957, and a member of the Association. We extend our sympathy to his wife Asta, daughter Jenny and other members of his family.

Falklands Reunion Gosport

A reunion of veterans of the Falklands War is to be held in Gosport on June 14th. Veterans wishing to attend should write for details to: PO Box 47, Gosport, Hants, PO13 0AR

Stamps for Guide Dogs

Readers with unwanted used **Falklands or St Helena** stamps may like to send them to:

Mr. Drew Johannson,
24 Springbank Drive,
Poleglass, Dunmurry,
Northern Ireland,
BT17 0QN

Mr. Johannson a Royal Navy diver was crippled by the bends and invalided out of the service. Since then, although confined to a wheelchair, he has devoted his life to raising money for **Guide Dogs for the Blind**, by collecting and selling used stamps. Falklands and St Helena stamps are particularly valuable. Drew Johannson's slogan is "**Busy Drew Equals Dogs**". Let's keep him busy

A Soldiers Song

A play by Hugh Jones adapted from the book by Falklands War veteran, Ken Lukowiac. May 22nd to June 7th. The Drum Theatre, Plymouth. Tel: 01752-267222.

Correction

Contrary to the information on the membership circular with the last *Newsletter*, the subscription for full-time student members of the Association is £5 - **irrespective of age**.

The Falkland Islands Association

President: The Rt. Hon. the Lord Braine of Wheatley. **Vice Presidents:** General Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, MSC, DL, The Hon. L.Buxton, Sir Cosmo Haskard KCMG, MBE, Sir Jack Hayward OBE, Mr. E.W.Hunter-Christie, The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, CH, CBE, MP, Mr. A.Monk OBE, Mr. C.E.Needham, CBE, Major R.N.Spafford, Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley GCB, Councillor R.E.Walker.

Chairman: Sir Rex Hunt CMG,
Vice Chairman: Mr. R.Elgood.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E.C.J.Clapp.
Admin Secretary: Mrs. S.Syborn.

The Falkland Islands Association brings together those who support the continuing freedom of the people of the Falkland Islands. Its Constitution states that its objectives are:

"To assist the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves without being subjected to pressure direct or indirect from any quarter"

The Association is independent, but maintains close links with many other Falklands organisations. It is a major source of information about the Falklands. It publishes a quarterly newsletter, which all members receive, covering political and social events in the Islands, wildlife, tourism, philately, and many other subjects. It welcomes interest in the Falklands and invites all those who share its aims to become members.

Membership Application

I/We would like to support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves and to help them develop their islands in accordance with their wishes.

I/We wish to join the Falkland Islands Association. (Individual members annual subscription £15, Pensioners and Students £5, Corporate members and Trading Organisations, minimum £50, Corporate Sponsorship £500).

I enclose a cheque for payable to the Falkland Islands Association, (or, preferably, use bankers order form below).

Full Name
 Address
 Occupation..... Telephone Number
 Connection with the Falklands, if any
 Signature Date

Please return to: The Falkland Islands Association, 2 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB Please do not use this form for renewals.

BANKERS ORDER

To Bank
 Branch
 at

Please pay to National Westminster Bank Plc, Piccadilly Circus Branch, 19 Shafesbury Avenue, London W1V 7RL, Bank Code 56 00 29 for credit to: THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION, Account No. 2422399, the sum of pounds on receipt of this order and thereafter annually on the anniversary thereof.

Account Number
 Name
 Address
 Signature Date

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday, June 11th
 Captain Barker's Memorial Service,
 Southwark Cathedral.
 Lincoln's Inn Reception

Thursday, July 24th
 Sir Michael Shersby's Memorial Service,
 St. Margaret's Church, Westminster

Saturday, December 6th
 Battle Day and AGM

ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the newsletter is 4,100 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, to all Members of the House of Commons, Members of the House of Lords, all British Members of the European Parliament, and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth and foreign countries. 700 copies are distributed in the Falkland Islands. Advertising rates are as follows:

Full Page £250
 Half Page £125
 Quarter Page £65
 Eighth Page £35
 Short Insertions £3 per line

Discounts for 4 insertions by negotiation.
 A special concession is offered to members of the Association living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

RELEASE OF COPYRIGHTS

The Editorial Committee release all copyrights on the content of the *Falkland Islands Newsletter*, except on pictures, cartoons and maps. Other publications are invited to quote freely. However, we ask that quotations are made in context and the *Falkland Islands Newsletter* acknowledged as the source.



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Editorial Committee:

Sir Rex Hunt, C.M.G. (Chairman).
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 Mr. P.J.Pepper (Co-Editor).



Above: American yachtswoman, Karen Thorndyke, with the four crew members of HMS NORFOLK who sailed her yacht *Amelia Earhart* back to Stanley for her after she was taken sick. Clockwise from top left they are: Kev Griggs, Roger Float, Iain Priest, and Neil Southwell

Photo: Courtesy the RAF



Stanley football team, which did so well on its recent visit to Punta Arenas, Chile.

Photo: Norman Clark