



Falkland Islands

Newsletter

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Falklands Future Set Fair

The future for the Falkland Islands is bright. An oil rig began drilling the first exploratory well in northern Falklands waters in late April. Desire Petroleum, the oil company specially created to explore Falklands waters, has floated on the stock exchange, attracting enthusiastic investors. Like all oil operations in untapped areas, it is a high risk venture.

Oil or no oil, the Falklands is now a stimulating place to be, as its Chief Executive, Andrew Gurr, points out in his upbeat article on the "Modern Falklands". So much progress has been made in so many ways, there is, he says, a real "buzz" about life there. The fisheries industry, a model of good management and careful conservation, continues to thrive with new Falklands-registered vessels swelling local participation. Real progress is being made to diversify the Islands' basic industry, agriculture.

Education, employment, welfare and hospital care have all been transformed since 1982. Falkland Islanders merit

congratulation, along with successive British Governments, for their steadfast support, guaranteeing the defence of the Islanders and their right to self-determination.

What a pity Argentina cannot show the same maturity, pragmatism and wisdom. Instead it pursues its outdated claim to sovereignty and intensifies its diplomatic offensive, claiming that any oil belongs to them, not the Falklands. They seem determined to deny the Islanders the fruits of democracy which they themselves enjoy, thanks to Britain's part in bringing down their military regime.

Argentina can prosper side by side in peace with a free Falklands. It has the opportunity to co-operate in oil exploration. Yet still it tries to stifle development of the Falklands exclusive areas of exploration by threatening to impose taxes and sanctions on international companies working there.

It is time Argentina dropped its spurious claim and earned its democratic credentials.



The semi-submersible oil rig, the *Borgny Dolphin*, photographed outside Port Stanley

Photo: Norman Clark

Historic April 27: First Falklands Oil Drilling

April 27, 1998, is a historic date for the Falkland Islands. It is the date drilling began on the first hole in the search for oil in Falklands waters. The drilling rig, *Borgny Dolphin*, had been towed more than 8,000 miles, from Norway down the Atlantic Ocean on a journey lasting several weeks. This first well, which was for Amerada Hess, took a month to drill. It was in 430 metres of water depth, and reached about 3,000 metres. Oil "shows" were detected, and a *Daily Mail* report says these were of oil and gas traces from a number of levels - but the well is considered "dry", in that it was not a strike. The second, which is being drilled now, is for LASMO; the third will be for IPC, the fourth for Shell, and the fifth for Amerada Hess again, about the end of the year. All these companies, although quite independent are sharing resources to reduce costs.

The rig was towed down to the Falklands by the *Maersk Puncher*. She was joined by *Maersk Mariner*, also from Europe when she arrived in Falklands waters. It is this vessel that does anchor handling at each well location.

The current drilling programme is expected to last until early next year; subsequent work depending on the results of these exploratory holes.

Supplies

Rig supplies are being controlled by Stanley CSM, the joint venture between Stanley Services and CSM of Aberdeen. These have been moving down from Aberdeen since the beginning of the year. In January, the *Kapitan Vaga* delivered 3,500 tons of drilling equipment and supplies. This included two cranes, forklift trucks, lorries and trailers, wellhead equipment and 80 containers which will be used to shuttle supplies out to the rig. In March, the *Aleksandrov* discharged consumables such as chemicals and drilling mud. Another vessel, the *Pantelis K* delivered more supplies recently.

Operator of the rig, Dolphin Drilling, again of Aberdeen, is stationing just two or three people in Stanley, and sharing offices with Stanley-CSM, and the oil companies. Rig personnel are flying out for a month's break after every month's work.



The *Kapitan Vaga* loading drilling supplies in Aberdeen

Below: Ken Kendall (Left) of CSM in Aberdeen and Ken Leach, International Procurement and Logistics Manager for LASMO, sign the agreement giving Stanley-CSM the contract for logistics support of the *Borgny Dolphin* rig.

Photos: Stanley CSM



Britain Rejects Argentine Protests

Sixteen years after British forces liberated the Falklands, Argentina has launched a new offensive -- attacking oil drilling in Falklands waters and threatening the oil companies involved.

Argentina dashed off a note of protest to the British Embassy and has renewed its threats to impose taxes and punitive measures on companies which co-operate with the Falklands - despite the 1995 Oil Agreement. It is rushing previously stalled legislation through its Congress to implement these threats. This modifies their hydrocarbons law to impose a 3% royalty on Falklands oil and punitive sanctions, if they don't pay up, including a bar on activity in Argentina.

Despite the 1995 Oil Agreement, Argentines accuse Britain and the Falklands of going ahead unilaterally "without their permission" in waters to the North of the Falklands. Britain robustly rejects this, insisting that any oil in their waters belongs to the Falklands. Foreign Office Minister for Latin American Affairs, Tony Lloyd, recently back from the Falklands, declared "We don't recognise any right of the Argentine Government to become involved in commercial activities in Falklands waters". The Governor, Mr. Richard Ralph dismissed Argentine claims as "fanciful". Councillor Bill Luxton

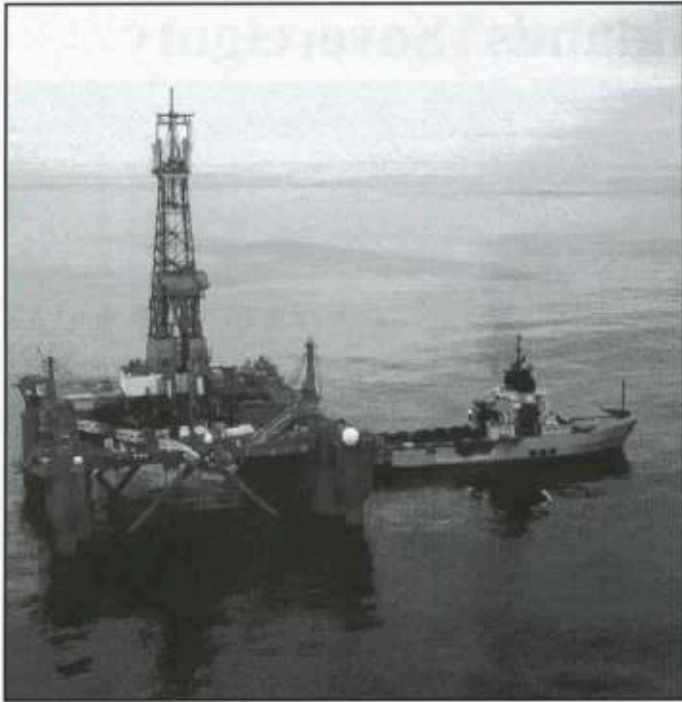
said "The Argentines have absolutely no control or right to tax companies operating in the Falkland economic zone. We totally deny their right to do that".

Special Area

Director of Mineral Resources, Mrs Phyllis Rendell and Attorney General, Mr David Lang QC, returned from a week in Buenos Aires in April where arrangements for the special area were discussed. This is the area that straddles the median line between Falklands and Argentine waters to the south-west of the Islands. Unlike the exclusively Falklands area, which is already being drilled, this area is being shared with Argentina.

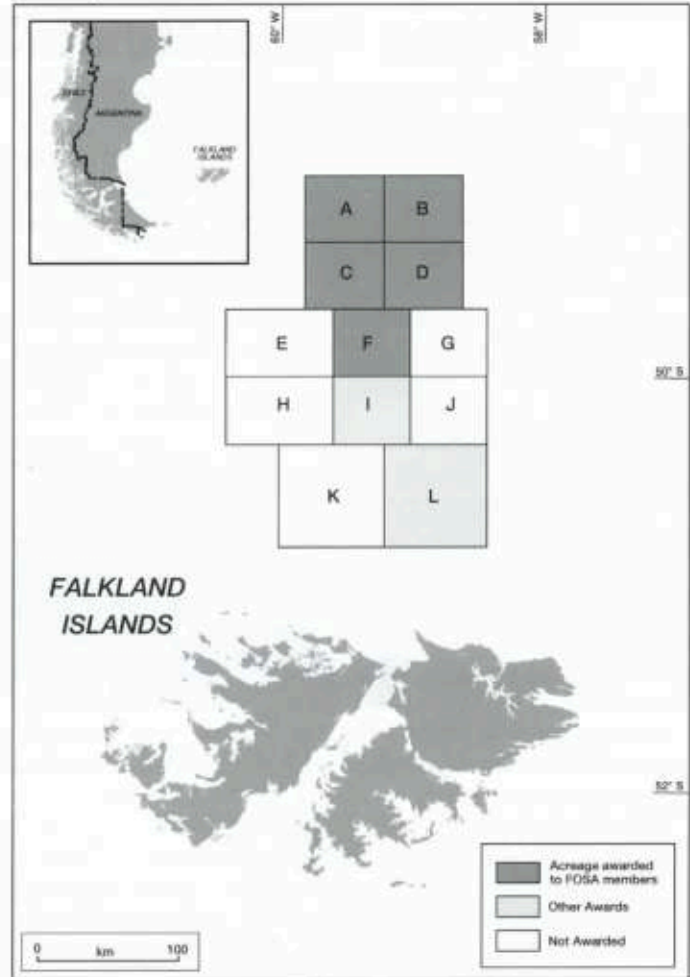
Mrs. Rendell told Falklands radio that they were making progress, but that there were difficulties in achieving a common set of rules out of two very different legal systems. There were also safety and health concerns, and work to do on the structure of the licensing round and licence criteria.

This area is part of a sedimentary basin that is a known oil producer. The structures here are inferior to those in the northern area and the potential finds are thus less but, as a known area, the chances of finding oil are greater.



Above: The *Borgny Dolphin* being manoeuvred outside Stanley. *Photo: Penguin News*

Right: The areas licensed for oil exploration by the Falklands Government. The first well for Amerada Hess was in block A. The one being drilled now for LASMO is in block C. *Map courtesy of Amerada Hess.*



Expectations Should be Realistic

Several sensational accounts of oil around the Falklands have appeared in the UK press recently.

These centred round reports of "oil shows" and led to a dramatic rise in the price of some shares. This was followed by a fall when the first well, being drilled by Amerada Hess, did not amount to an oil strike.

Readers should bear in mind that it is, in fact, quite common to find small shows of oil in some sedimentary rocks, and so this is often detected by the hydrocarbon monitors that analyse the drilling mud in a well as it is being drilled.

Only where oil is discovered in large quantities can an oil strike be considered genuine. To be economic, such a strike must be of a reservoir that is sealed geologically and has adequate porosity for the oil to flow. More importantly, it must be big enough for the investment in production wells and wellhead infrastructure to be justified. In the proven oil producing environment of the North Sea, only one exploration well out of four is viable. So, it would have been an industry "first" if the first well in Falklands waters had been a strike.

The exploration wells being drilled at the moment are in a sedimentary basin that has no geological connection with the oil bearing sediments along the Argentine coast. It has never been drilled before. Like all such operations in an unknown area, it is a very risky venture. The present "oil shows" do demonstrate that there is a source rock of some kind in the basin, but they are not enough evidence on which to claim that the area is commercially oil bearing. No one knows yet whether there is oil there in commercial quantities or not.

Immigration Enquiries

Thanks to the publicity given to the "oil shows" referred to above, the Falklands Government received a number of enquiries from people anxious to emigrate to the Falklands!



One of the huge anchors that attach the floating drilling platform to the sea bed being unloaded in Stanley. *Photo: Norman Clark.*

Britain Resolute on Falklands' Sovereignty

The British Government has reiterated its strong support for the Falkland Islanders' right to self determination. Faced with the sustained Argentine campaign to force concessions on its sovereignty claim to the Islands and their two-thousand residents, the Islands' elected Councillors were given unequivocal backing and re-assurance personally by the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Latin America, Mr. Tony Lloyd, on his first visit to the Islands since taking office, following a previous visit before the Labour Government came to power.

Menem Visit No Threat

Falklands Councillors were impressed by the Minister's assurances that there is no change in Britain's total commitment to the Islanders' political freedom and their military defence. As Argentina intensifies its campaign in the run-up to President Menem's official visit to Britain in November, Mr. Lloyd insisted Britain would not allow the visit to be exploited to promote the sovereignty claim. Amid speculation that Britain's review of its armed forces may mean a reduction in its fleet of frigates, deployed world-wide, the Minister re-assured the Islanders that Britain's forces in the South Atlantic would remain sufficiently strong to safeguard Falklands' security.

Argentine Access: a Decision for Islanders

On the controversial issue of whether to allow Argentines to visit the Islands, the Minister reiterated that this is a decision solely for the Islanders, on which the British Government does not have a view. Falklands' policy is to ban Argentine passport holders until the sovereignty claim is renounced except for relatives' visits to Argentine war graves. These visits are welcomed by the British Government and seen internationally, Mr. Lloyd said, as "humanitarian and decent". An Argentine campaign to allow their national flag to fly over the Darwin cemetery where the Argentine dead are buried has found no British Government support contrary to Argentine Press suggestions. The Governor, Mr. Richard Ralph, dismissed it as a "fantasy". Britain says the Argentine dead should be allowed to lie in "peace and dignity".

Reassuringly Supportive

In his four day visit, from April 21 to 25, the Minister met Falklands' business leaders in the Chamber of Commerce, senior Government officials and residents in Stanley and outlying areas. His visit coincided with the arrival of the first drilling rig now searching for offshore oil, so it was opportune to review progress in oil exploration. The Falklands fishing industry, the mainstay of Falklands' prosperity in recent years, was also reviewed. Britain is striving to get a long-term fishing agreement with a reluctant Argentina to safeguard the industry and aid conservation of stocks in the South Atlantic. Falklands' Councillors were satisfied by the Minister's assurances. Councillor Edwards said Mr. Lloyd was "reassuringly supportive".

Newsletter Comment:

The Argentine demand drawn up by Government Peronist (Justicialist) Party leaders, including the President's brother, Senator Eduardo Menem, for the Argentine flag to be hoisted over the Darwin cemetery is clearly politically motivated. It is regarded by the Islanders as a concession that the Argentines would exploit to further their sovereignty claim and validate President Menem's prediction that their flag would fly over the



Tony Lloyd MP, Minister of State for Latin America

Falklands by the year 2,000, thus bolstering his plans to seek a third term in office. That, too, is a cynical ploy for political advantage by an unpopular President.

The Argentine claim that the British flag flies over the First World War Gallipoli cemeteries in Turkey is a falsehood. Britain does not officially fly any flags over millions of war dead in cemeteries around the world. The only exception is the Anglo-French war memorial at Thiepval in France.

Peronists claim the Argentine flag, with its "ethical and religious" values, would be a mark of respect to the dead who had sworn to give their lives for Argentina. This hypocritical argument comes from a nation whose cruel military dictatorship sent their soldiers into battle, ill-trained and unprepared, in a disastrous bid to burnish their tarnished image and prolong a discredited regime, resulting in nearly a thousand dead and many more wounded on both sides - and then would not even contribute to the cost of their cemetery at Darwin.

The British buried the Argentine dead with dignity. The British offer to repatriate the bodies for burial in Argentina closer to their relatives was callously rejected by the Argentine regime, which cynically claimed they were already buried in Argentine soil. In life they were military pawns. In death, they remain political pawns. As the Falklands priest, Monsignor Daniel Spraggon, said at the consecration: "We treated their men better dead than the Argentines did alive".

In contrast, ethics, religion and respect for the dead, which the Argentines now espouse, were cruelly absent in Argentina's internal Dirty War when they kidnapped, tortured and killed 20,000 of their own people and callously dumped the bodies in secret graves or tossed them from helicopters into the Atlantic. This army of the missing dead, the "Disappeared", as they are known, were all patriots too. There are no flags on their unknown graves.

The Dorada Arrives

The *Dorada*, owned by Byron Marine, who also own the inter-Island vessel the *Tamar FI*, has arrived in the Falklands from New Zealand. It has a ten-year contract to work as a fisheries protection vessel.

The *Dorada* was originally built in Poland in 1991 as a combination jigger/ trawler. It is fully equipped for research fishing as well as for patrol duties. Capable of 16 knots, it carries the latest in navigational equipment, and two 5.8 metre fast craft capable of 40 knots, whose prime function is to deliver fisheries officers to fishing vessels at sea. It draws 5.5 metres, weighs in at a gross 2,360 tons, and carries a crew of 16.

Right: The *MV Dorada*, photographed before it left New Zealand



The John Cheek is Flagged In

The freezer trawler *John Cheek*, formerly *Jacob Marengo* was flagged-in on January 31st to become the 15th major Falklands flag vessel.

In a short ceremony to mark the occasion, Governor Ralph presented the flag to Captain Jose Angel Estevez, who has commanded the vessel since its purchase a year ago, and said the vessel would be a living, working memorial to the late Councillor John Cheek.

After welcoming the guests, Councillor Jan Cheek, John's widow and director and co-owner with Stuart Wallace of Fortuna, said that seeing her late husband's name on the ship was an emotional experience for the family, but a proud moment for Fortuna.

The *John Cheek* is the fourth vessel to belong to Fortuna. At only 748 gross registered tonnage, it is also the smallest. Nevertheless, it represents another major investment by Fortuna, who own 50% of the vessel together with *Pescapuerta SA* of Vigo. The vessel has fished since February last year with a long-term loligo licence, won against stiff competition. It was built in 1985 for a Namibian company and up-graded to Falklands standards. Since then it has operated with the first experimental loligo licence allocated by the "lottery" on December 22nd last year. This allows very limited fishing outside the normal loligo season for scientific evaluation purposes.

Loligo Catch-Up

During February, 8,600 tons of loligo squid were caught in Falklands waters. This was a 400% rise over last year's figure, but represented more a return to normality rather than a bonanza. Director of Fisheries, John Barton, described it as "not so much of a surprise but some welcome relief". Last year the catch was only 26,000 tons which led to the season being closed early. Normally the catch is about 60,000 tons.

Loligo squid is a smaller but more valuable catch than the better known illex squid. Unlike the illex, the loligo is 98% in Falklands water, and is what most Falklands flag boats fish for. It is popular in Europe.



The *John Cheek* at work

Photo: Ray Robson

Fortuna's other joint venture vessels are the *Beagle*, *Capricorn*, and *Petrel*. It was the idea of partners, *Pescapuerta*, now old friends, to name it after the late John Cheek, who with Stuart Wallace led the way in establishing a genuine Falklands fishing industry.

South Georgia Licences

Uruguayan Vessel Buys

According to CCAMLR (The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources), the total allowable catch for Area 48.2, which is around South Georgia, is 3,300 tons of the valuable Patagonian Toothfish.

Ten licences were issued by the South Georgia Government to fishing vessels from South Africa, Chile, Britain, the Falklands, Japan and, for the first time, Uruguay. This is significant, given the politics of the region.

Each licence costs £91,000 and all vessels are carrying a British scientist observer. The season started on April 1st.

“Dependent” No More

In the Falklands, the community has always been self-sufficient, except in matters of defence. But, like a dozen other territories, the Islands were officially considered a “Dependent Territory” of Great Britain.

The Dependent Territories Conference this year saw the end of that demeaning expression. Speaking to a packed Conference, Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, announced that such terminology was over - and the attitudes that went with it. In future, he said, the remaining British territories around the world would be known as UK Overseas Territories. Mr. Cook also announced the creation of a special Ministerial post to look after these and the appointment of Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean as the Minister responsible.

Mr. Cook spoke of his vision of a new “successful, modern relationship” between Britain and these territories, and confirmed that self-determination was the all-important guiding principle that would direct Britain’s attitude to them. He quoted the Falklands War as the classic example of Britain insisting on this principle.

A series of speakers followed Mr. Cook. Councillor Summers spoke for the Falklands outlining the economic paths the Islanders were following.

Also present were FIG London Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron and Councillor Norma Edwards. As always there was great interest in the Falklands and Councillors Summers and Edwards gave a number of interviews to a wide range of media journalists.



Councillor Mike Summers addressing the conference



Above: Councillor Norma Edwards and London Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron listening to the speakers.

Left: Newsletter Co-editor, Harold Briley, meeting Prince Andrew and the new Minister for the Overseas Territories, Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean.



Mines: British 1; Argentine 16,600!

The number of Argentine mines still uncleared in the Falklands sixteen years after the 1982 conflict is an estimated 16,600. The latest figures given to Parliament by the Defence Minister Dr. John Reid are: Some 18,000 Argentine mines were laid, including 14,000 anti-personnel landmines. About 1,400 were cleared by the British until work was suspended when Royal Engineers were injured, some of them losing their feet. Of British landmines laid in the 1982 conflict and afterwards in defence of the Islands only one remains unaccounted for, although Dr. Reid said, “every effort has been made to clear British devices”.

Parliament was also told that the Ministry of Defence is sponsoring considerable research into sensors and counter-mine technologies but some, such as Ground Penetrating Radar, are not yet mature enough for military use.

The costs of maintaining the British military garrison for the past financial year 1997 - 1998 was £74 million. This includes payment of salaries which would have to be paid anyway wherever the Forces were serving. The Forces also



Robot mine clearance vehicle at work in the Falklands. Photo Harold Briley

have the use of invaluable training areas in the Falklands unavailable elsewhere.

Turf Turned for New Boarding Facility

Councillor Mike Summers (right) cutting the first turf for the new boarding house, Falkland Lodge, at Peter Symonds' College, Winchester, in the presence of Falklands students and the Principal, Mr. Neil Hopkins.

The new building, which is partially funded by the Falklands Government, will raise the boarding capacity of Peter Symonds' from its current level of 72 students, which is severely oversubscribed, to 120. It will guarantee boarding places for the 15 - 20 Falklands students usually studying there for their "A" Levels. The building is expected to be ready by September.

Peter Symond's has about 1900 pupils in the 16 to 19 age group, most of them from the Winchester area, and does adult education as well.

Photograph courtesy of The Hampshire Gazette



"Beautiful and Wild" Falklands Photos in Britain

Three two-week exhibitions of stunning scenes from the Falklands were held in Britain over the February to April period, giving visitors a remarkable glimpse of Falklands wildlife and scenery.

The first was in the historic dockyard at Portsmouth, scene of so much activity in 1982. This was opened by FIG London Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron. The next was in Plymouth, another naval town that helped to rescue the Falklands. It was opened by the Mayor, Councillor Joan Stopperton. Finally, the exhibition moved to Whitby, which is twinned with Stanley.



Frances Knox and Miss Sukey Cameron sorting pictures for the Whitby exhibition.

Photos: Above, courtesy of Westcountry Publications, Left, courtesy of Mr. Alan Wastell.



Opening the Whitby Exhibition. L to R: The Mayor, Councillor Ada Myers, County Councillor John Marshall, Councillor Richard Wastell, Islander Debbie Summers and County Councillor Yeoman Williams.

Agricultural Shows

The Falkland Islands' now much more diverse agriculture and businesses will be represented by displays at three shows in Britain this year. They are:

- The Three Counties, Malvern, Worcestershire, June 16-18.
- The Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh, June 25th-28th.
- Royal Agricultural Show, Stoneleigh, Warwick, July 6th-9th.

Offshore Northern Seas '98

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation is organising an oil exhibition in Stavanger, Norway, from the 25th to the 28th of August. FIDC personnel and members of the Falklands Chamber of Commerce will be attending.

Enquiries should be made to the FIDC Representative, Falklands House, 14 Broadway, London. Tel: 0171-222-2452.

Falklands Diana Stamps

The Falkland Islands have honoured the memory of Princess Diana with a special set of postage stamps. These went on sale on March 31st.

In addition to the normal postage value of £1.20, each sheet of four stamps will carry a surcharge of 20p, which will be donated to the Diana Memorial Fund, as will 50% of the profits from the issue.



The Falklands in Photos



Above: The vessel, Reefer Fresh, aground in Port William. It was freed by a Chilean tug two weeks later. See page 10.



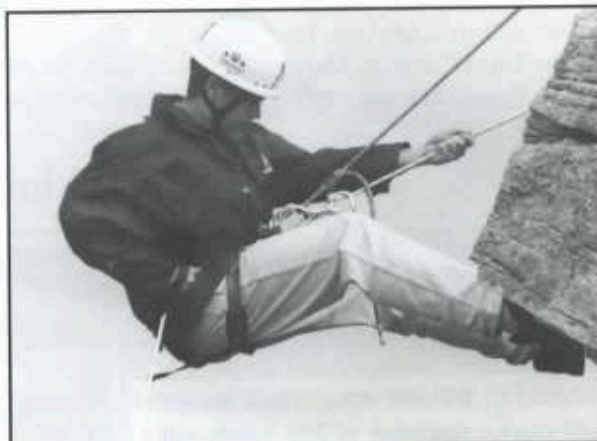
Right: Cattle handling using new Australian equipment at the Agricultural Department Open Day at Brenton Loch.

Below: Dae Peck on Norai in the glorious sunshine of the West Sports. Photo: Susanna Hansen.

Below Right: Roxanne Morrison wins the girls section of the Tumbledown run. She also won the West Sports Mile in February. Next in the Tumbledown girls came Marg Norman and Claire Kilmartin.



Above: Derek Clarke of Argos preparing to tackle Claudio Ross of Globe Tavern. Globe went on to win 2 - 1.



FIDF recruit, Mark Gilbert, going through his paces.

FIODA's latest, the pantomime version of Robinson Crusoe.

Set, apparently, on the wrong side of Cape Horn, on Speedwell Island, the wrecked crew get into all sorts of problems which provide endless opportunities for one line jokes. Right: Stowaways Blackpatch and Jackboot conspire to steal the treasure. Below, the "Good Guys" discuss how to escape.



Above and Above Left: Falklands tots at the Infant/Junior School sports meeting in February.

Left: Young jockeys head for the start in Stanley's mini-sports.

Below Left: An interesting visitor to the Falklands, Christian Frenzen, in the Islands to measure their continental drift.

Below: Chartered by local fishing company Argos, the Sierra Leyre, 5,100 tons, is one of the biggest ships seen at the FIPASS floating dock recently. The Sierra Leyre will be transporting fish catches from Argos vessels to Vigo in Spain.



Falklands News

Heliport for Cape Dolphin

Bristows Helicopters (South Atlantic) Ltd. has had a proper helicopter landing pad, link road and garage built to improve its existing refuelling facility at Cape Dolphin.

CBFFI Hands Over

The Brigadier Ian Campbell, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands (CBFFI) handed over command to Commodore Ray Dickson. Commodore Dickson is no stranger to the Islands as he was there previously in 1994 as Station Commander and Deputy Commander of the Forces. A graduate of Liverpool University, he has been in the RAF since 1970, serving in several posts, including a Phantom solo aerobatics pilot. He has served in Australia, Germany, Bosnia and in NATO appointments in Europe. He is accompanied by his wife, Kay, and his non-military interests appropriately include salmon and trout fishing, and woodwork.

Brigadier Campbell described his tour as "Challenging, satisfying and enjoyable". He said: "There is no other tri-service training environment quite like this available to British Forces anywhere in the world".

Brigadier Campbell said that he had also made a point of letting the Argentines know what he was doing and to ask them what they were doing. Brigadier Campbell pointed out the benefits this had in reducing tension.

FIDF Rifle Association

The final of the 900 and 1000 yard championships were held on March 22. Ken Aldridge was the overall winner with 140 out of a possible 150. Tony Pettersson came next with 136 and third was Gerald Cheek with 135.

Sniffer Dog Lee to Good Home

Having failed to find any trace of Marine Addis, whose tragic disappearance 17 years ago has been the source of so much speculation, it had been hoped to use sniffer dog Lee at MPA in search of illegal drugs.

This did not work out as, having been brought up in a family environment, kennel life did not suit him. He is now living with the Eccles family in Stanley. It would be impractical to return him to Britain in view of the 6 months quarantine he would have to go through.

Governor Visits Antarctica

HE Governor Ralph spent four days in Antarctica in March. Clearly impressed by what he saw, Governor Ralph commented that management of the British Antarctic Service Rothera Base was "superb" and that "everyone has huge respect for the environment".

Referring to the Falklands, he went on to say, "I'm now aware of the importance of the Falklands to BAS and vice-versa. I had no idea previously of the extent of BAS movements, ships, freight, aircraft and personnel through the Islands. No other country involved in Antarctic research enjoys this kind of facility".

During his stay, Governor Ralph took a 23 km skidoo ride to Adelaide Island and went by inflatable dinghy to Leonie Island.

Reefer Runs Aground

Panamanian registered fishing vessel *Reefer Fresh* ran aground on March 4th - unfortunately at high tide and at a

periodic tide peak. Apparently undamaged, the ship had to wait until March 15th to be towed off by the special contracted Chilean tug *Ultramar 12*. Photo page 8.

Football News

Globe Tavern won the Stanley Services Knockout Cup, beating Argos 2 - 1. Earlier it had won the league without losing a single game. The Globe team was C.Gilbert, D.Clarke, I.Betts, L.Clarke, C.Ross, W.Clement, A.Bonner (sub R.Miranda) C.Buckland, M.Clarke, J.Peck and Team Captain Troyd Bowles.

Sea Cadets

In March, three officers from the Sea Cadets Southern Area HQ flew out to the Falklands to give courses in seamanship and first aid.

Continental Drift

Christian Frenzel from Braunschweig University visited the Falklands to measure the drift of a number of sub-Antarctic territories. For the Falklands, it is 2.5 cms per year to the west.

Horticultural Show

The Horticultural Society Show was a great success on March 21st. Despite fears that the bad weather this year might reduce entries, these were in fact up seven on last year, with an increase in the number from the Camp, and were of an extremely high standard in all sections. Society Secretary, Penny Hill, said the flower section had been "among the best ever". For the most points in this section Barbara Keenleyside won the Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. E.G.Lewis

Amongst many other prize winners, Heather Smith won the Hunt Cup for the most points for a Camp exhibitor in the Vegetable Classes.

In the Children's Section, Samantha Dodd won the prize for the most points overall, as well as first prize for a pot plant grown by a six-year old or younger. Sarah Carey won the Challenge Cup presented by the Society for the most points in the cookery section for 12 - 15year olds.

Bishop Visits

The Anglican Bishop of Chile, the Right Reverend Colin Bazely, visited the Falklands for the third time to carry out the induction of the Rev Alistair McHaffie as incumbent of Christ Church Cathedral.

Christ Church Cathedral is the direct responsibility of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop Bazely, who has been based in Chile for 35 years, was deputising for him.

RAF Western Band for Falklands

The RAF's Western Band were in the Falklands to play for the Queen's Birthday (the real one on the 21st of April) and to take part in Songs of Praise from Christ Church Cathedral. It also played at the Sergeant's Mess and Officers Mess Annual Reception. It was the band's second visit to the Falklands.

Easter Bazaar for Netball Club

The Stanley Netball Club held an Easter bazaar at the Community School on Easter Saturday. There were stalls with jumble, books, tombola, a lucky dip, refreshments, face painting and age-classed competitions for best Easter card and best decorated Easter egg.

Aid for Argentines

At the request of the Argentine authorities a C-130 Hercules and a VC-10 from the Falklands assisted Argentine planes to search for three missing Argentine seafarers near the South Orkney Islands. Cooperation was said to be good.

Although their dinghy was found on the shore of one of the South Orkneys, there was no trace of the men. Sadly, they are now presumed to have perished.

Sea King in Sea Rescues

A Sea King helicopter from 78 Squadron rescued a seriously injured seaman from the fishing vessel Saint Denis on April 6th. The seaman had been crushed against the deck by a heavy fishing cable.

78 Squadron to the Rescue - Again.

The impressive contribution of the RAF's 78 Squadron to the well-being of seafarers was further extended on April 27th when one of its Sea King helicopters lifted an injured Spanish fisherman from the deck of the trawler *Piscator*. The fisherman had lost three fingers and was taken to hospital for surgery.

Another Helicopter Mission Lands in Darkness

Called out to yet another medical emergency, a Sea King from 78 Squadron landed at 3.30 in the morning at Bombilla House. In the darkness the landing spot was illuminated with vehicle lights and the patient, Mrs Rita Johnson, safely delivered to KEMH. There she made a complete recovery.

Historical Sites Agreed

Three new historical sites were listed by the Planning and Building Committee in April. They are Government House, Paragon House and the Rose Hotel.

Accommodation Unit

The burnt-out site of the old Falkland Island Development Corporation building is to be used for a 60 person accommodation unit. Kelvin Remote Site Services has won the building contract and, when built, the block will provide accommodation for people working on FIG projects.

FICS Fete

The Falkland Island Community School fete raised £1,070 in March. Indoors there was line dancing and a fancy-dress competition, and stalls included books, jumble, clothes and refreshments. Outside there was horse-riding, putting and sponge throwing at a series of big-hearted volunteers in the stocks. The Headmaster proved an irresistible target.

The money raised will go towards school equipment and local charities.

Moto-X Results

Jonny Summers has won the Falklands expert moto-x class for this season, followed by Shane Blackley, who also produced consistently fine performances, and Jan Clarke, who rode well, but did not participate in all meetings.

The Clubman class was won by Ian Jordan, followed by Bill Stewart and Dustin Clarke.

In the Juniors, Eddie Grimmer won, followed by Jay Moffat, who would have done better if he had not wrecked two bikes during the last race of the season. Special praise must go to Sean Moffat who came in third - and is only 11 years old! Clint Short, who is even younger, won everyone's respect for his efforts in the PW class - which augurs well for the future.

The Open was won by Jonny Summers, followed by Shane Blackley and Rocky Johnson. Again, special mention must go to Sean Moffat, who despite his age came in fourth in this adult competition.

Agriculture Dept Open Day

Brenton Loch hosted the Agriculture Department's Open Day this year.

One of the main features was beef cattle management which took advantage of the Australian design cattle yards at Brenton Loch. Other exhibits were the fox control programme on Weddell Island, pasture improvement and an update on the tree shelter belt programme.

Jenny Luxton, Arlette Betts and Rhonda Reid kept the spectators going with a supply of hundreds of burgers and the Army, led by Sergeant Whitaker, erected the marquee.

Nina Runs Marathon on Broken Foot

Despite sustaining a painful stress fracture to one of her feet in the course of the event, Islander Nina Aldridge, daughter of Caroline and Ken Aldridge of Stanley, completed the London Marathon on April 26th in 5 hours and 25 minutes - and raised over £1000 for research at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Aylesbury.

Back on the Bench as Chief Justice

Mr James Wood, who was Senior Magistrate in the Falklands from the end of 1991 to 1994, has been appointed Chief Justice for the Falklands following the untimely death of Sir Renn Davis. Mr Wood is currently Chairman of the Independent Tribunal Service.

Bristow's MOD Contract Not Renewed

In a surprise move by the MOD, British International Helicopters (Brintel) were awarded the contract for MOD helicopter services in the Falklands, which Bristows Helicopters has held for the past fifteen years. Brintel, who are based in Aberdeen, was recently acquired by Canadian Helicopters.

Bristows will not be leaving the Falklands as they have recently won the contract to supply air transport to the *Borgny Dolphin* oil rig.

Duty Rates Up

Duty rates on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products were raised in this year's Falkland Islands Government budget by 10% and 20% respectively.

Air Fares Up

The MOD have announced a 2.5% rise in the cost of fares on the air-bridge to the UK, with effect from July 1st.

This will put £24 on the return fare for Island residents.

TES Distinction

The Falklands Community School has won a distinction in the Times Educational Supplement Newsday competition.

Swimming Gala

Eighteen new records were set at the FICS Swimming Gala, many going to members of the Swimming Club - a just reward for the hours of training they put in.

Champions in the age classes were: Chris MacDonald (year 7 boys); Samantha Davies (year 7 girls); Alistair Ceballos (year 8/9 boys); Claire Kilmartin (year 8/9 girls); William Normand (year 10/11 boys); Debbie Robson (year 10/11 girls).

The Modern Falklands

by Chief Executive Andrew Gurr

The Falkland Islands are often perceived as being rather quaint, sheep laden, and out of touch with the modern world. Such an image may have been true in the past, but nowadays those who visit us expecting a sleepy south Atlantic immobility, are as mistaken as those who imagine we exist under the colonial jackboot.

One of the words most used by visitors at present is "buzz". They say we have it, and that fact surprises them. Naturally the prospect of oil drilling within days of writing this is exciting, but the impact of the oil companies' activities is still fairly limited. Even if oil is discovered, their major presence will be offshore for some time yet. It is the steady progress in other areas that has given that feeling of positive momentum so often referred to.

The skilful management of our fishery over the past decade has provided the financial impetus for the substantial infrastructure improvements of the last few years. The high profile projects of the Community School, the Hospital and the road programme are well known. Of lesser scale, but of considerable impact, are such things as the much improved dental service, the year round supply of fresh vegetables from the hydroponic garden, and the substantial upgrading of the crushing capacity at Pony's Pass Quarry. As the economy begins to grow, we are well aware of the need for a thriving private sector, and the manner in which the government, the Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce work together, is something that much larger countries would love to emulate.

Five Channel TV

The weekly Lan Chile flight is now well established and the sheer reliability of that contact is providing dividends in terms of attractive holiday packages in both directions as well as a flow of fresh produce that filters through the Stanley shops. The range of other products on sale is also expanding and many people comment on the variety of car ownership; this is no longer solely a Land Rover owning society. The military TV service provided by BFBS is now same-day, which means that we actually see up-to-date news. Even that was pre-empted and topped by the private sector KTV which is currently providing five live channels in the Stanley area including BBC World, and live Premier League Soccer on a Monday.

Rural Revitalisation

The revitalisation of Camp remains a high priority for all of us and the comprehensive research programme being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture is targeted to provide real answers to the grassland nutrition problem. We have in prospect the ability to increase our sheep-holding capacity substantially, which will transform the economy of the countryside. In addition, the new abattoir which is to be built shortly will not only see the end of the wasteful culling of sheep, but will also encourage the resurgence of beef farming. Shelter belts of trees that stand a very good chance of long term



Vegetables growing up the risers in the hydroponic garden

survival are being planted at present and, once established, they will provide shelter for sheep as well as increase the crop-growing capability. Already the private sector within camp is selling turkeys and pork into Stanley, and delicious they are too.

Employment Reforms

The employment structure within the civil service has undergone substantial change over the past year. The old fashioned non-established status has been done away with and all of us now work under the same hours and conditions. The government occupational pension scheme has been completely changed so that it is portable, thus the labour force within the Islands is flexible in a manner that was impossible before. Many private sector companies are interested in joining the scheme which is designed just for that purpose. On top of that, the new Island Wide Passage Scheme is in place; within that scheme all Islanders are entitled to holiday credits of £1 per day. This means that everyone has the opportunity to visit the UK, or elsewhere, at least once every three years and, although the visit obviously takes the form of a holiday, a broadening of vision will be enjoyed by the whole population.

"A stimulating place to be"

Cable and Wireless have made huge strides in greatly improving the quality of the Camp telephone system and the new Earth Station is providing us with internet and e-mail capability at 10p per minute.

All these infrastructural issues add up to a snowballing improvement in lifestyle and a real awareness of becoming part of a modern global village. And while that is happening, our Councillors are gradually assuming more responsibility for specific portfolios as the democracy develops. That in itself is an interesting and absorbing process, but there is no doubt that the often-stated principle of self determination works through from the major external political issues to the smaller, but nevertheless important, operational ones.

The Falklands is managing to retain its unique environment and the best of its traditional culture, while emerging rapidly towards the next century. It is a stimulating place to be.

Falklands Web Success

Several Falklands websites are now available on the Internet and provide instant information to ex-pat Islanders, their friends and anyone with access to the World Wide Web.

www.sartma.com

First came the *Falkland Islands News Network* website whose address is above. This is run privately, and without government subsidy, by Miss Juanita Brock, who owns the FINN newservice and produces the weekly newspaper *Teaberry Express* in Stanley.

It provides news and good colour photographs taken directly on a digital camera. It is up-dated every Saturday. It also carries a section on the Antarctic - *The Antarctic Sentinel* - and re-prints articles from the *Falkland Islands Newsletter* which are free of copyright and can be reproduced by anyone.

Sartma also carries an enquiries forum where personal messages can be placed.

Access to the Sartma website is free. It is now carrying colour advertisements for Island businesses. These cost £260 per year if they are not changed. Sartma has recorded access requests from 60 different countries around the world.

www.falklands.gov.fk

The Falklands Government website above. This provides a wide variety of information on the Islands, including, history, politics and general information. It provides business, tourist and administration addresses.

www.fidc.org.fk

Allied to the Falklands Government website is the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) website. This contains commercial information for businessmen and others interested in doing business with the Falklands.

www.tourism.org.fk

Also on the web now is a high quality presentation from Falklands Tourism. This carries up-to-date information on companies running tours to the Falklands, which are reproduced on page 19, as well as good quality pictures of some tourist sites.

The authorised Falklands tourist agency in America, *Tread Lightly Travel*, currently has a most informative description of its services to the Islands and its connecting tours in southern Chile on the Falklands Tourism website and can be reached itself on patread@aol.com. In addition to its own tours, *Tread Lightly Travel* acts as a wholesaler to other travel companies in America.

Stanley's Cybercafe

In addition to the above websites, Stanley now boasts a "Cybercafe" known as the Hard Disk Cafe. This popular institution, which is the brainchild of Nikki Buxton of Synergy Information Systems, offers four online computers where young and old can "surf" the internet, and play computer games. The cafe also sells computers and accessories and, of course, refreshments. It was opened by HE Governor Ralph in April.

The *Newsletter* is willing to bet that few other towns ten times the size of Stanley have such a cafe.



The Hard Disk Cafe, Stanley's Cybercafe. On the left Ian Doherty, seated is Nikki Buxton, on the right are Garreth Fisher and Terry Betts.

Photo: *Teaberry Express*

Falklands Defend Human Rights of Foreign Fishermen

Falklands legislators have unanimously condemned violations of human rights on fishing vessels licensed to fish Falklands waters and called for prosecution of offenders. Initiating the debate, Councillor Lewis Clifton, an expert on the Law of the Sea, highlighted ill-treatment, physical abuse and oppressive working conditions of fishermen on some vessels, involving, among others, Korean, Chinese, Indonesian, Philippine and South African workers. He pointed out it was an international problem, not taken seriously by the world community. Councillors agreed the Falklands authorities should do all they could to make sure these people had a decent life.

Successful Prosecution

One recent incident resulted in the Captain of a Korean Squid Jigger, Mr. Ha Tae Hwan, pleading guilty to aiding and abetting six cases of assault by beating by his vessel's "Gang Boss", no longer within Falklands jurisdiction. The captain was ordered to pay £250 compensation to each of his victims and was given a four-month jail sentence, suspended for two years.

Seven of the crew of his ship, the *Ihn Sung 101*, risked their lives jumping into bitterly cold water to get away from the ship. After they were heard shouting, they were rescued, cold and exhausted, by the yacht *Cowrie* in the Narrows, and the launch *Franke Wilde* near Gypsy Cove. One was taken from the water unconscious and floating head down and revived by *Franke Wilde* crewmen, Zak Stephenson and Graham Minto.

As the vessel headed out to sea, Stanley Harbour Master requested it to stop. It was boarded by the police, and 11 more Indonesian and Chinese crewmen asked to leave, complaining of ill-treatment. They were billeted at the Seamen's Centre.

Death at Sea

In another incident, one of the crew of the Taiwanese vessel *Men Wei III* died from wounds inflicted by another crew member. When the vessel reached Stanley, the Royal Falkland Islands Police assisted the Captain with his enquiries. As the case falls outside the criminal jurisdiction of the Falklands, it is for the Taiwanese authorities to deal with it.

False Clue Fails to Trace *Endurance*

Antarctic's Eighty-Three Year-Old Clue Analysed

Doubt has been cast on the suggestion that the wreckage of an old ship found in the Antarctic, and being analysed by experts at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, is the remains of Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous Antarctic expedition ship, *Endurance*. Eighty-three years after the *Endurance* was crushed and sank in the Weddell Sea in 1915, the wreckage excited historians and revived interest in what was one of the most incredible feats of navigation, endurance, rescue, and leadership - in all the annals of exploration. But expert Robert Headland now believes that it is unlikely to be the *Endurance*, but might be the *Charles Shearer*, an American whaler out of Stonnington, that was lost without trace in 1877. The *Endurance* was made out of timber from Sandefjord, Norway and examination of the tree rings in the wreck's timbers show no correlation with Sandefjord timber, or with one of *Endurance's* spars that the survivors used as a flag pole.

The wreckage was first found by a former Royal Navy Commander, Malcolm Burley, who led an Antarctic expedition in 1970 to survey Elephant Island, where Shackleton's men took refuge when the *Endurance* sank. Suspecting the wreckage, washed up in a sandy cove, was from *Endurance*, he brought back samples which he stored in his garage in the village of Peasenhall in Suffolk. There it remained for the next 27 years until his wife told him he had "too much junk" and it was time to get rid of it. He sent it to the Cambridge scientists and wrote to Captain Tim Barton, commanding the Royal Navy's latest ship named *Endurance*, on her annual assignment in the Antarctic.

Passing Elephant Island, Captain Barton sent a helicopter which again detected the wreck much as Commander Burley had left it in 1970. Captain Barton brought back more of the wreckage.

It was only two years after the ill-fated *Titanic* struck an iceberg and sank in the Atlantic in 1912, with the loss of more than 1,500 lives, that Ernest Shackleton embarked upon his epic adventure on *Endurance*. While both vessels perished, the stories had very different endings. Whereas *Titanic* was a triumph which turned into disaster, the *Endurance* was just the opposite, a disaster which ended in unbelievable triumph.

When *Endurance* sank, the crew got onto the ice with their three small lifeboats and drifted for months until they reached the edge of the pack. Then they made a six-day journey in heavy seas to Elephant Island.

Leaving 22 men behind there, in shelters made of rocks with two of the boats as roofs, Shackleton embarked with five others in the 23-foot long lifeboat *James Caird* in a perilous 17-day voyage to South Georgia through what Shackleton called: "the most tempestuous, storm-swept waters in the world". Defying severe conditions, morale remained high, thanks to the inspiring leadership of the man they always called "the Boss".

After reaching South Georgia, Shackleton crossed its icy mountains to make contact again with the outside world at the Stromness Whaling Station. Then he had to make four attempts in four different ships, before he was able to penetrate the pack ice, and rescue his stranded men on Elephant Island.



Frank Hurley's famous night photo of Shackleton's Ship, *Endurance*, fast in the ice of the Weddell Sea.

The explorer died, aged 47, on a subsequent expedition and was buried, appropriately, at the scene of his greatest achievement, in South Georgia. There could not be a more fitting example of the Shackleton Family Motto: "By Endurance, We Conquer". The *James Caird* survives to this day — on display in Dulwich College, South London, where Shackleton had been a pupil.

The achievements of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his son, Lord Shackleton, who laid the foundations of the Falklands' economic prosperity after Argentina's 1982 invasion, are commemorated by a charitable Scholarship Fund which awards travel and study grants to promote knowledge of the South Atlantic region, especially the Falklands and South Georgia, and to enhance the quality of life in the Falkland Islands.

Donations to the Scholarship Fund may be made to: "The Shackleton Scholarship Fund", c/o Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London, SW1H 0BH.

Shackleton To Be Filmed

The famous expedition of Sir Ernest Shackleton is to be the subject of an epic film to be released next year. Harrison Ford is to play Shackleton

British Antarctic Survey -- Envy of the World

Falklands Gateway to Southern Ice and Scientific Learning

Harold Briley has been looking at the remarkable work of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the unique contribution its research and discoveries have made and continue to make to the wellbeing of everyone in the world. Visiting its headquarters at Cambridge, he was welcomed by its Deputy Director, Dr Dougal Goodman, and other scientific experts. The British Antarctic Survey is justifiably the envy of the world for its Antarctic expertise and the quality of its science. Its impressive record of research in the harsh climate and challenging terrain of the southern ice cap has produced an astonishing array of information of vital importance to extending mankind's understanding of their fragile planet and how to preserve and manage it better while protecting the Antarctic's unique natural environment.

Britain has a glorious record in the Antarctic from the epic expeditions of the early years of this century, to the present day as the British Antarctic Survey's expertise and leadership in research is a major influence in a remarkable international Antarctic brotherhood of scientists from many countries whose co-operation is an exemplary example to the rest of the world of how to live in peace and work to mutual benefit.

They are able to do so thanks to one of the most successful international accords of all time — the Antarctic Treaty which for 40 years has established a peaceful framework removing hostility, politics and competing territorial claims, to turn this pristine environment into a vast scientific laboratory.

Operation Tabarin

Britain has had a scientific presence in the Antarctic since 1925. While thousands of scientists work there in peace and harmony, the British Antarctic Survey traces its origins to a clandestine wartime naval incursion in 1943, code-named Operation Tabarin, to counter any enemy activity. After the war, BAS was first established as the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, renamed in 1962, to become Britain's research institute for the region. It has built up a world-renowned reputation.

It has more than 400 highly qualified staff, probably with a greater concentration of scientific qualifications than any other comparable organisation, works closely with universities and other research organisations around the world, operates two research ships, the *Bransfield* and *James Clark Ross*, and several specialised aircraft, De Havilland wheel-ski Twin Otters and a larger De Havilland Dash - Seven. It works closely with the Royal Navy's Antarctic ice patrol vessel, *HMS Endurance*, which carries out extensive hydrographic surveys and provides BAS with helicopter, logistical and other forms of support.

Ozone Hole Discovered

BAS mans five research stations throughout the year, with hundreds of scientists braving the dark, bitterly cold Antarctic winter at Halley and Faraday, which are lower and upper atmosphere physics laboratories, where the hole in the ozone layer was discovered; Signy and Bird Island, the biological stations; and Rothera, the centre for earth science studies, and also its essential air base, with its 900 metres long air strip of crushed rock, with hangar and fuel storage tanks.

Their research has widespread significance internationally on such vital issues as climate, ocean behaviour, communications, conservation of marine and bird life, the fishing industry, and the history of our planet going back hundreds of thousands of years.



The BAS base at Rothera with its airstrip Photo: BAS



The Living Accommodation Unit at Halley Bay photographed in bad weather. Photo: BAS

The Falkland Islands play an important role in Britain's whole scientific effort as its gateway to the Antarctic and a friendly base and staging post for BAS ships and aircraft, as well as the Royal Navy's ice patrol ship, *HMS Endurance*.

As the Falkland Islands Legislative Council says in its document on "The Future of the Falkland Islands": "The Falkland Islands are the natural base for Antarctica... the last truly unspoiled place on earth of any size ...of immense significance to mankind. We are particularly involved in the preservation of our own unequalled resource of wildlife. Our national concern over conservation leads us to believe that we are in a key position to influence not only the debate involving the future of Antarctic but also the management of that future".

Editors' Note: This is the first of series of Antarctic articles. In future reports, we examine scientists' work and life-style, their discoveries, and their equipment — from satellites to transmitter-carrying Albatross; and how an urgent request for a washing machine was answered.

Tourism in the Falklands

Falklands tourism hit new highs this austral summer, with 20,700 people visiting the Islands on cruise ships, compared with 7,008 last season. The number of cruise ships only rose from 34 to 48, but what made the difference was the size of the ships concerned. One, *Norwegian Crown*, landed 1,221 tourists! Other large vessels were the *Akademic Shuleykin*, and *Niuw Amsterdam*. Fifty ship visits are expected next year. This is expected to produce a total of approximately 23,000 visitors.

2,000 hits at Destinations 98

The Falkland Islands Tourist Board put on a stand at Destinations 98, the UK's largest Travel exhibition. In just 4 days, 2,000 people visited it to make enquiries.

Honour for Specialist Tour

An acknowledgement of the importance of tourism to the Islands was made at a reception at Government House in February. This marked the 10th anniversary of specialist operator, Island Holidays', first tour in 1988.

His Excellency Governor Ralph made presentations to Island Holidays' proprietor, Libby Weir-Breen, and to two clients, Sue McKaskill and Hans Tyssen, who had returned to the Falklands for their third visit - and have already booked again for November 1999.

Commenting on the reception after her return to the UK, Libby said: "It was a great honour to be received in Government House and I was especially moved by the kind words the Governor had to say about my late partner, Bobby Tulloch, who led all our tours until the year before he died and who was well loved in the Islands.

The fact that several clients return to the Falklands after their first visit says it all really. The wildlife, of course, is the main draw - especially the King Penguins - but the stark beauty of the scenery, the space and the welcome from local people all play their part in making the Falkland Islands what I consider to be one of the most exciting destinations in the world for wildlife tourism".

Museum Stretched to Capacity

632 tourists visited Stanley Museum in one day in January (each paying £1.5). Curator, John Smith commented that feedback had been superb as many had expected a "dusty old museum and found a bright well-stocked one".

The visitors came from two cruise vessels, the *Royal Princess* and the *Explorer* which by chance were in port at the same time, and a coach had to be laid on every hour to take the tourists to the Museum.

Ascension Visits Start

Falklands Experience (see opposite page) is now offering four day stopovers on Ascension Island.

Not Yet for FIA

Falkland Island Airways, did not begin operating in March as predicted in the last *Newsletter*. It was hoping to begin by carrying oil exploration personnel via Montevideo to Sao Paulo, where the passengers could board commercial services to London or elsewhere. But, the contract from Amerada Hess and LASMO went to Jetair. FIA will be carrying Shell personnel later in the year.



The cruise ship Hanseatic in Stanley Harbour.



L to R: Director of Tourism, John Fowler, Sue McKaskill on her third visit to the Falklands, Libby Weir Breen, of Island Holidays, HE Governor Ralph, and Hans Tyssen, also on his third visit to the Falklands.

Jetair Flights

Jetair (Worldwide Aviation Services), the charter company carrying oil exploration personnel to the Falklands has announced that its flights will carry ordinary fare-paying passengers too.

Flights will leave Stansted every other Sunday at 9pm and, with a refuelling stop in the Cape Verde Islands, will take 16 hours to Mount Pleasant Airport. The return flight will be non-stop, leaving MPA at 4pm on the following Tuesday and arriving at Stanstead at 11.30 on Wednesday.

Prices are \$2,000 return for groups of 1 - 5 tourists, or \$1,900 for groups of six or more. Telephone 01342-711510.

Tour Booking

Tourist information may be obtained from the Tourist Representative at the Falklands Islands Government Office, 14 Broadway, London, SW1H 0BH. Telephone 0171-222-2542. Fax 0171-222-2375. Website www.fig

Tourist Information may also be obtained directly from the Falkland Islands Tourist Board, Stanley, Falkland Islands. Telephone 22215, Fax 22619 or Website: www.tourism.org.fk

All companies known to the *Newsletter* to be conducting tours to the Falklands at the moment are listed on the page opposite. Those interested are reminded that many tours are arranged in May and June become booked up quite quickly.

- ANIMAL WATCH**
(Wildlife)
Granville House,
London Road,
Sevenoaks,
TN13 1DL
Tel: 01732-741612
Attention: Sarah Gillem
- ISLAND HOLIDAYS**
(Wildlife)
Drummond Street,
Comrie,
Perthshire, PH6 2DS
01764-670107
Attn: Libby Weir-Breen
- GO FISHING FALKLANDS**
(Fishing)
162/166 Fulham Palace Road
London W6 9ER
Tel: 0181-748-8376
Attn: Maggi Smit
- FALKLANDS EXPERIENCE**
(Falklands Life
& Ascension Island)
29 Queen's Road,
Weston-Super-Mare,
Avon BS23 2LH
Tel: 01934-622025
Major R. Spafford
- AVIAN ADVENTURES**
(Ornithology)
49 Sandy Road,
Norton,
Stourbridge,
Tel: 01384-372013
Attn: Gerry Griffiths
- HOSKING TOURS**
(Ornithology/Photography)
Pages Green House,
Wetheringsett,
Stowmarket, IP14 5QA
Tel: 01728-861113
Attn: David Hosking
- ORNOTHOLIDAYS**
(Ornithology)
1 - 3 Victoria Drive,
Bognor Regis, PO21 2PW
Tel: 01243-821230
Attn: Nigel Jones.
- HOLT'S BATTLEFIELD
TOURS**
(Military History)
Golden Key Building,
15 Market Street,
Sandwich, CT13 9DA
Tel: 01304-612248
Attn: David Storrie
- WILDLIFE WORLDWIDE**
(Wildlife/Birdwatching)
170 Selsdon Road,
South Croydon,
Surrey, CR2 6PJ
Tel: 0181-667-9158
Attn: Chris Breen
- PHOTO TRAVELLERS**
(Wildlife)
PO Box 58
Godalming, GU7 2SE
Tel: 01483-425448
Attn: Liz Ballard.
- WILDLIFE ADVENTURES**
(Wildlife)
Sandpiper Road,
Whitstable, Kent CT5 4DP
Tel: 01227-275936
Attn: Melvyn Crow
- GUERNSEY PRESS**
(Wildlife/General)
PO Box 57, Guernsey,
Channel Islands
Tel: 01481-45866
Attn: Tim Earl
- BIRDQUEST**
(Ornithology)
Two Jays Kemple End,
Birdy Brow,
Stonyhurst,
BB7 9QY
Tel: 01254-826317
Attn: Mark Beaman
- LIMOSA HOLIDAYS**
(Ornithology)
Suffield House,
Northrepps,
Norfolk,
NR27 0LZ
01263-578143
Attn: Chris Knightley
- BELGIUM
DISCOVERY EXPEDITIONS**
(Wildlife/Photography)
1 Herethoutseweg 142,
PO Box 206,
Herentals,
Belgium
Tel: 14 22 49 01
Attn: Geert Henau
- FRANCE
CHASSE ET PECHE**
(Fishing)
12 Rue de Saussere,
75017 Paris, France
Tel: 1 47 64 47 47
Attn: Guy Geffroy
- ANHINGA**
(Wildlife/Phoyography)
35 Rue Alexandre Dumas,
69120 Vaulx-La-Cote,
France
Tel: 72 37 02 57
Attn: Yves Thonnereux
- CAP NATURE**
(Wildlife)
2 Rue des Moulins a Vent,
77810 Thomery, France
Tel: 1 64 70 81 60
Attn: Remy Marion
- GRANDNORD-VOYAGE
NATURE**
(Wild/Photography)
15 Rue Cardinal Lemoine,
75005 Paris, France
Tel: 1 40 46 05 14
Attn: Dominique
- OBJECTIF NATURE**
(Wildlife)
Chateau de Gillevoisin,
91510 Janville sur Juine,
France
Tel 1 60 82 22 29
Attn: Alain Endewelt
- GERMANY
DUMA NATUREISEN**
(Wildlife/General)
Neckerstaden 4,
69117 Heidelberg,
Germany
Tel: 06 22 1 163020
Attn: Friedrich Neumann
- HS TRAVEL**
(Wildlife/General)
PO Box 1447,
6082 Moerfelden - 1
Germany
Tel: 06105 1304
Attn: Hubert Strasser
- NATUR-
STUDIENREISEN**
(Wildlife)
Untere Dorfstrasse 12,
37154 Northeim,
Germany
Tel: 05 55 1 99470
Attn: Kerstin Sander
- WINDROSE**
(Wildlife)
PO Box 110349
10833 Berlin,
Germany
Tel: 30 20 17 21 0
Attn: Michaela Wenig
- NETHERLANDS
WOLFTRAIL**
(Wildlife/Photography)
Steenbakkersweg,
PO Box 800
7550 AV Hengelo,
Netherlands
Tel: 74 478885
Attn: Roel Cosijn
- SWEDEN
AVENTYRESOR**
(Ornithology)
Fleminggatan 68,
Box 12168,
S - 102 24 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: 8 654 11 55
Attn: Tomas Bergenfeldt
- SWITZERLAND
P & J REISEN**
(Wildlife)
Vordestockli 1,
CH - 6390
Switzerland
Tel: 41 94 24 02
Attn: Peter Pluss
- ARCATOUR**
(Wildlife)
Bahnhofstrasse 23,
CH - 6301 Zug,
Switzerland
Tel: 42 21 97 79
Attn: Ruedi Bless
- ITALY
PATAGONIA WORLD**
(Wildlife/General)
via Leonardo da Vinci,
10126 Turin,
Italy
Tel: 11 676 411
Attn: Mauro Olivero
- USA
TREAD LIGHTLY TRAVEL**
One Titus Road,
Washington Depot,
CT 06794,
U.S.A.
Tel: (860) 868-1710
Fax: (860) 868-1718
e-mail patread@aol.com
(Tread Lightly also operates as
a tour wholesaler to other travel
companies and as an author-
ised reservations office in the
US for the Falklands. It is
currently advertising its tours
to the Falklands on the Falk-
lands Tourist Board website
www.tourism.org.fk)

Falklands Families Association

The Falklands Families Association, whose members lost loved ones in the Falklands War, held its memorial service on Saturday April 25th at the beautiful Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks.

Prayers were lead by The Reverend Richard Buckley RN and the Reverend Angus Smith, who are Chaplains to the Association. Lessons were read by Admiral Lord Lewin and Philip Keoghane, who lost his father in the *Sir Galahad*. The address was given by Bishop Mann, who lost his own son in Oman. Wreaths and floral tributes were laid at the Monument of Remembrance in the Chapel.

Miss Sukey Cameron represented the Falkland Islands Government and several other Islanders were present. Sir Rex Hunt represented the Falkland Islands Association. The Baroness Thatcher and her husband, Sir Denis, were among the guests, and received a delighted reception from the families present. Sitting at the front of the Chapel she shared in the emotion which was still so keenly felt.

"Everyone gave of their best"

There was a reception after the service, and Lady Thatcher spoke to many of the families present. Although not in the programme, she was invited to speak and thrilled everyone with a stirring address on the Falklands War.

She recalled what an emotional time it had been for everyone and said: "Like you I lived through every hour from the time that we took the decision that we were not going to have the land of British people taken, however far away that transgression might occur... Everyone involved had a heightened awareness and every single one gave of their best.... And we have so much for which to thank those who upheld all of those things for the entire world to see. We will never forget and we will always come here to recall, remember and be thankful".



The Baroness Thatcher and Sir Denis being greeted at the Chapel entrance by Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Colonel Jones VC and Chairman of the FFA, and Mr. Des Keoghane, who lost his son, Kevin, on the *Sir Galahad*.



In the centre, Mrs Hall, who lost her son on *HMS COVENTRY*. On either side of her, Mr. and Mrs Williams, who lost their son on the *Sir Galahad*.



L to R: Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, who lost their son, Timothy, with 3-Para on Mount Longdon; Albert Owens, custodian of the Pallas Barracks, Belfast, where there is a Parachute Regiment Memorial, and Denzil Connick, who lost a leg on Mount Longdon, and founded the South Atlantic Medal Association.

Right: L to R: Rear Admiral Salt, who was captain of *HMS Sheffield*, when she was lost. Mr. and Mrs Briggs who lost their son, David, on the *Sheffield*.

On the right are Mr. Kelly who was a CPO on the *Sheffield* during the war, and his wife Pat.



Right: Lady Thatcher chats to Falklands Families Association members who lost loved ones during the war.

All Photos: P.J.Pepper



Memorial Chapel Appeal

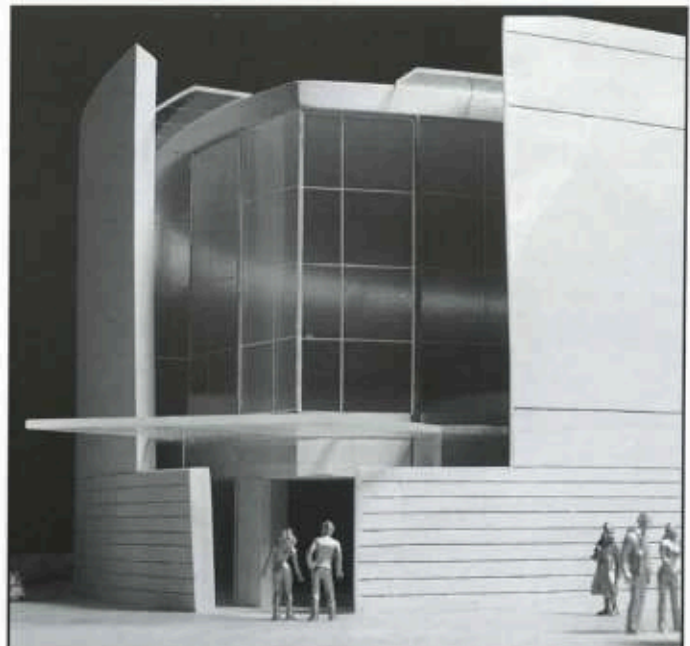
When the guns fell silent in June 1982, 255 families had paid a terrible price. They had lost sons, husbands and fathers. Many of these were lost at sea, and so have no grave.

Although there are memorials in the Falkland Islands and elsewhere, there is no one church dedicated solely to their memory. So the Trustees of the Memorial Chapel project began the task of raising the £1.75 million pounds required. So far this has come from trusts, service organisations, companies, and individuals. But half a million is still needed.

The Chapel itself is to be built, starting this September, on land generously donated by Pangbourne College. Its strikingly modern design won a national competition, organised by the Royal Fine Art Commission. It will seat 550 people and will record the names of all those who gave their lives. The main stained glass window will record the principle actions of the war. Services of remembrance will be held there on significant dates.

The project has the support of the Falklands Families Association and SAMA, the South Atlantic Medal Association.

Donations may be sent to: **Angela Perry, Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Office, Pangbourne College, Reading, Berks, RG8 8LA. Tel: 0118-9842101**



The winning design for the Falklands Memorial Chapel

Volcanic Ash Study

One of the more intriguing initiatives financed by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund has been carried out by two academics from Northern Ireland researching deposits of volcanic ash preserved for centuries in the peat of the Falkland Islands. Dr Peter Wilson of the University of Ulster at Coleraine and Dr Valerie Hall of Queen's University, Belfast, have been analysing peat collected from three locations: Stanley Common, in the vicinity of Fox Bay West and Rat Castle Shanty. In a progress report, they say the Falkland Islands seem an unlikely place to study volcanic ash as there are no volcanoes there. But they recall how ash fell on the Islands after the eruption of Mount Hudson in Chile in 1991.

The scientists are trying to determine when and how often volcanic ash has fallen on the Islands and from which Andean volcanoes it came, several hundred miles away in South America. Falklands peat is especially good for trapping and preserving volcanic ash. The two scientists found it in great abundance, especially in peat from Stanley Common. Combining radiocarbon dates of the Falkland peats with geochemical information and records of ancient volcano eruptions will enable Doctor Wilson and Doctor Hall to understand and extend knowledge of South Atlantic volcanic history going back thousands of years. This research is helpful in the study of landscape evolution, and environmental change. Volcanic



Dr Peter Wilson examines volcanic ash in his laboratory.

activity is an important factor affecting past present and future climatic changes. It could also give a better understanding of Falklands vegetation, soil development, drainage and water supply. Dr. Wilson is no stranger to the Islands, having visited several times in nearly ten years of study of its geology and soil characteristics, on which he has published a series of pamphlets and articles.

The May Ball and Queen

Glamour was evident everywhere at the May Ball, organised as usual by the Boy Scouts. On entry, each guest got a voting slip - blue for the ladies, to vote for Prince Charming, and pink for the gentlemen, to vote for the May Queen.

By 11pm it was standing (or dancing) room only. As always it was a difficult task choosing twelve finalists. So difficult in fact that this year there were 14, because of a tied

vote. These were Pippa Lang, Anika Clarke, Sammy Hirtle, Sammy Marsh, Sarah Rowland, Ailie Biggs, Helen Coombe, Dionne Jones, Roanna Lloyd, Laura Humphreys, Georgina McKay, Bonnie Curtis, Barbara Howells and Priscilla Halliday.

First, and looking magnificent in her off the shoulder jade silk gown, Pippa Lang was called onto the stage where HE Governor Ralph proclaimed her May Princess.

Then, and to huge applause, Anika Clarke was called forward to be garlanded with the sash and tiara as May Queen for 1998.

Finally, it was the boys' turn. First, Karl McKay was a popular choice as the runner up. Then Mark Gilbert was called forward to be proclaimed Prince Charming.



May Queen for 1998, Anika Clarke, and Prince Charming, Mark Gilbert

Photo: Norman Clark

Miles Apart

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The Re-election of President Menem

Before 1994, the Argentine Constitution allowed a President only one, six-year, term of office. This enabled him to concentrate on what was right for the country - whether it would make him re-electable or not.

This was changed in '94 for no other reason than to allow President Menem to stand again for office. The new constitution provided for two four-year terms. With Menem in difficulties during the Constitutional Convention, a red herring was needed. So a clause was slipped in to claim the Falklands. This had never been in the Argentine Constitution before, even though the first was drawn up in 1853 - only 20 years after Britain re-established the Falkland Islands Colony.

This new constitution gave Menem only one more term of office. Yet over the last year there have been repeated rumours that he might stand again for the Presidency in 1999 - which would require a new constitutional convention or a plebiscite to override the Constitution. With only a 15% approval rating in the opinion polls, Menem had little chance of winning either.

Since March his campaign has taken shape openly. Amazingly, he has gone another route and launched a legal case to establish that the two terms of office allowed by the new constitution means two terms under the new constitution and therefore that his first term, under the old constitution, doesn't count! The opposition has called this a legal "coup d'etat", and Ex-President Alfonsín even called for civil disobedience. There was even criticism from inside Menem's own cabinet.

So far, all minor courts have already ruled against Menem. Menemist partisans launched suits against two of the Judges for "failing to uphold the constitution" - a crude, but typically Argentine attempt to intimidate the judiciary. The National Election Court decided against him too. The case is now with the Supreme Court. Here several judges are Menem appointees, and the court might well back him. Judgement may not be given until as late as September of this year.

The Election

Of course, even if Menem wins the right to stand again, he still has to win the Peronist nomination and then the election itself. His regime now has a hideous reputation for corruption and scandal, so neither will be easy. But he has several important advantages. The only other prominent Peronist, Eduardo Duhalde, Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, was humiliated in the mid-term elections last year. So Menem is by far the most prominent Peronist still and there is no obvious "crown prince" now. Duhalde has always been a rival to Menem, and the two are now fighting it out inside the Peronist Party - Menem, with all the patronage available to the President. Secondly, the opposition is made up of an alliance and people fear this might come apart after winning power. Even now there is continuous squabbling inside this. It is made up of the Radicales, led by the veteran politician, De La Rúa, currently Mayor of Buenos Aires, and FREPASO, led by Graciela Fernandez Meijide. Both have good reputations personally - Graciela for probity in public life above all else. She lost her eldest son in the "Night of the Pencils" (Right). But, she is widely regarded as lacking experience. Thirdly, Menem can count on much more financial support from businessmen than the Alliance - or Duhalde, who is associated in the minds of many with the trade unions. We can only wait to see how all the political and legal infighting will go.

The Falklands

Menem promised to win sovereignty of the Falklands by the year 2,000 - which is when the next president will take power. He is now already fighting to be that next president, and the Argentine press routinely report his contacts with Britain in the context of the Falklands and his re-election bid. His trip to London is clearly geared to re-election above all else.

At the same time such a cavalier attitude to the Argentine Constitution is not helping Menem's reputation in Argentina or the international community. It shows all too clearly how politically immature Argentina still is as a democracy. The Constitution is designed to safeguard the population against despotic actions by their rulers. In this instance, the people are clearly being cheated - as would Falkland Islanders, if they were ever forced to rely on Argentine constitutional promises. In fact, Menem's craving for power makes Argentina look like a banana republic. Desperate to win support for his re-election he is using the Falklands issue, for domestic reasons, just as Galtieri and Peron did before him.

PJP

Argentine Fury with Garzon

Spanish Judge Baltazar Garzon's continuing investigation into the murder of Spanish citizens during Argentina's dirty war has now caused rage from the Menem administration.

President Menem claimed it was causing actual damage to Argentine/Spanish relations. Minister Carlos Corach said that in Argentina such a judge would have already been "kicked out of office". *Clarín* reported that the Argentine Government was applying "strong pressures" to have the investigation stopped.

This cut little ice in Madrid, where lawyer for the "Desaparecidos", Carlos Slepoy, retorted that without the Spanish investigation nothing would have been known about the Swiss bank accounts that many of the military junta were maintaining. One, Governor of Tucuman, General Bussi, was tearfully forced to admit that he had "forgotten" to mention his recently and has since been ruined politically.

Public opinion polls in Spain revealed that 60.8% of the people wished the process to continue and only 12.5% wanted it stopped. In Argentina some opposition political leaders, such as Fernando de la Rúa and Graciela Fernandez Meijide have supported Judge Baltazar's work.

"Falklands won't be Argentine"

Writing in the new Argentine magazine *Perfil*, foreign affairs expert, Carlos Escude, commented that any taxi driver in Buenos Aires could tell you that the "Falklands will never be Argentine".

La Noche de los Lapices

(The Night of the Pencils)

FREPASO politician and presidential candidate, Graciela Fernandez Meijide, lost her eldest son in what is now known as the "Night of the Pencils" during the Dirty War in Argentina. This occurred after an internal problem at a secondary school, when the Argentine military seized about a dozen of the schoolboys involved. They were never seen again.

This appalling incident was later made into a film called "La Noche de Los Lapices" as the murdered children had pencils in their satchels with which to do their homework.

The Reverend Harry Bagnall OBE

We regret to record the death of the Reverend Harry Bagnall, who was the Anglican clergyman in the Falklands at the time of Argentina's 1982 invasion. He died in Doncaster, aged 67, on January 18th. He little realised when he applied for the post of Rector at the most southerly cathedral in the world, Christ Church in Stanley, in 1979, that this peaceful backwater would be turned into a war zone dominating the world's headlines.

When his wife, Iris, spotted the advertisement in the Church Times, its intriguing wording amused them. "We are looking for an exceptional, adventurous man, married, for the Falkland Islands. Must be physically fit; able to drive and de-bog a Land Rover; butcher own beef and mutton, keep vegetable garden, ducks and hens; dig, dry and burn peat". There were then no butchers' shops in the Islands. Very few vicars are thus qualified, but he was, having previously worked in the meat trade. He felt the hand of Providence guiding him when his wife said: "Harry, perhaps it's you they're looking for". He got the job — and a place in history.

The Right Man at the Right Time

He knew nothing about the Falkland Islands nor his employers, the Intercontinental Church Society, but proved to be the right man in the right place at the right time, when the invasion shattered his religious idyll on April 2nd, 1982, as he heard the sound of gunfire and watched through his Deanery window the Argentine landing craft slipping across the dark waters of Stanley harbour at dawn.

It was the start of a hectic three months in which the quiet-spoken, mild-mannered Yorkshireman was to demonstrate his strength of character, his courage and compassion. He and his wife, Iris, could have been evacuated back to Britain with other expatriates, or gone to live in comparative safety on a Falklands farm. Their faith unshaken, they stayed in Stanley to comfort the sick and elderly and give re-assurance in the dangerous events that swirled around them.

When his fellow Yorkshireman, the Governor, Sir Rex Hunt, was deported and other leading personalities were arrested, he and his Roman Catholic colleagues at Stanley's St. Mary's Church, the late Monsignor Daniel Spraggon and Father Monaghan took on the task of representing the Islanders and raising their grievances with the Argentine occupation forces.

The Anglican Rector and the Roman Catholic priests, together, were a formidable trio, conspicuous figures in streets dominated by military uniforms and gun emplacements as they defied the curfew on their errands of mercy.

To Challenge Argentine Military Authority

Summoned by the Military Governor, General Menendez, drinking tea from the absent Governor's china bearing the Queen's crest, Mr. Bagnall was assured freedom of worship would continue. But he was to challenge the Argentine military authorities on a number of issues — and get his way. He opposed the proposed visit of the Argentine Bishop Richard



The Reverend Harry Bagnall and his wife Iris. On the right, Don Bonner.

Cutts of Buenos Aires. He insisted that ensigns hanging in his Cathedral be left untouched - including that of the Falkland Islands Defence Force and one from the cruiser Achilles from the 1939 Battle of the River Plate. He rejected Argentine attempts to dig defensive trenches in the Cathedral grounds or store weapons. And he dismantled the Deanery flagpole so the Argentine flag could not flutter there.

The first weekend of the invasion was Palm Sunday and Harry Bagnall used a Falklands shrub known as "diddle-dee" to make a Palm Sunday Cross which he and many Islanders wore throughout the occupation as a symbol of unity. The crowded Cathedral congregations continued to sing the National Anthem. And he refused to watch Argentine television broadcasts on a set soldiers delivered to the Deanery - which he left in its carton.

Harry Bagnall was awarded an OBE for what Sir Rex Hunt was to call his sterling service and selfless bravery. Leaving the Falklands in 1986, he retired three years ago after serving as Vicar of Hook, in Sheffield, for ten years, only a few miles from where he began his ministry as a curate in Goole in 1967 after his Southwark Ordination Course. He returned with his wife to the Falklands in 1992, with Margaret Thatcher and military commanders, for the tenth anniversary of the war, invited by the Islanders in appreciation of their work there. His visit coincided appropriately with the centenary of the beautiful Cathedral which emerged unscathed from the conflict.

Faith Under Fire

Mr. Bagnall wrote a book called "Faith Under Fire", in which he described his Falklands experience as the fulfilment of a lifelong desire to serve God abroad. His faith, he said, had never before been put to such practical use. The experience made him less methodical and fussy in his church duties — and more sensitive to what needed to be done. "This became so exciting", he said, "that I would leave my house in the morning, throw my hands in the air and say: "Well, Lord where are we going today?" As a young man serving in the police and the Army, he almost died from tuberculosis. And he fought his last battle against stomach cancer with characteristic fortitude and good humour. He leaves a widow and two sons.

HWB

The Falkland Islands Association

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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).

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Wednesday, June 10th
 Lincoln's Inn Reception

26th October to 7th November
 Falklands Exhibition, Croydon

Saturday, December 5th
 Battle Day 1998

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The British Antarctic Survey vessel the RRS James Clark Ross near Adelaide Island

Photo: Courtesy of BAS



Oil drilling supplies being unloaded at Stanley's floating dock complex

Photo: Norman Clark