



Falkland Islands Newsletter

Published by the Falkland Islands Association

Salute to the Brave

There is no more appropriate way to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Falklands War than pay tribute to the Armed Forces for their courage and competence, their suffering and sacrifice. When the politicians procrastinated and diplomacy failed, only the professionalism of the fighting men could reverse the humiliation of defeat and restore freedom to the Islanders. It was a challenging and some said impossible task. Defence Minister John Nott gave his Ministry's view that the Islands could not be liberated.

This defeatism was routed by the Navy's Chief of Staff, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, who insisted that a Task Force could prevail. How bravely it was to do so in a close run victory, almost denied it by the onset of winter and depleted ammunition. Islanders, too, courageously fought in the front line, delivered ammunition, evacuated the wounded, indulged in spying and sabotage, and

braved imprisonment with fortitude. The Islanders are conferring upon the garrison the Freedom of the Falklands in genuine gratitude for restoration of their freedom and preservation of their right to self-determination. A very high price was paid — 255 British servicemen and three Islanders dead.

It would be a betrayal of their sacrifice and their families' grievous loss to countenance any concession to Argentina's continuing anachronistic claim to sovereignty, reiterated by Argentine President Duhalde in mockery of the anniversary theme of reconciliation and improved relations. As Argentina yet again descends into chaos, vigilance must be maintained. The Falklands are traditionally used in Argentina as a focus to divert attention from domestic difficulties.

The Falklands are free and British and must remain so for as long as the Islanders wish to remain British.



June 14th 1982 and "J" Company, the Royal Marines, who were forced to surrender to the Argentines on April 2nd, return to Stanley and celebrate Britain's victory.

Photo: Courtesy of Major Mike Norman and the Royal Marine Museum, Eastney

Pioneer Speaker of Legislature

The Falklands Legislature has taken a symbolic step emphasising its growing powers and independence from the Foreign Office in its internal government by appointing its first ever Speaker. He is Mr Lionel Geoffrey "Tim" Blake, who now presides over the Legislative Council in place of the Governor.

Councillor Mike Summers described the appointment as a "demonstration of internal self-government and indeed of the right to self-determination.... and a normal process in the maturing of democracy".

The Councillors could not have chosen a wiser, more experienced or knowledgeable Islander for the task. Tim Blake worked at Hill Cove from 1958 until 1999, hosting many interesting people, before retiring to Stanley with his wife Sally. He was a founder member, and for three years chairman, of the Farmers' Association and a forceful advocate of the creation of a fishing conservation zone which has brought such prosperity to the Falkland Islands.



Expert on the Constitution

He served for nearly 20 years on the Legislative and Executive Councils, between 1964 and 1989. He was a member of the 1972 and chairman of the 1983 Commission on the Constitution which introduced a chapter protecting human rights, including self-determination.

He was chosen as Speaker for his understanding of the constitutional process, of the rules of the legislature and debate, and as a person who enjoys the confidence of members and who must be impartial. He says he very much looks forward to the task because of his interest in the legislature and the intricacies of its standing orders.

Together with the late John Cheek, he took part in the last negotiations with Argentina in New York prior to the 1982 invasion.

He has represented the Falklands at Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conferences in India, Mauritius, Fiji, Kenya, and the Isle of Man.

Harold Briley

New FIGAS Manager



Tribute has been paid by his successor to Falkland Government Air Service General Manager Vernon Steen (above right), who retired in April. The new Manager, Mr Fraser Wallace (above left), aged 40, says: "FIGAS is a highly professional organisation - being selected to the post is a huge honour. Vernon will be a hard act to follow. There will be many challenges - I look forward to working with colleagues and customers to meet those challenges, continuing to deliver an ongoing quality service and exploring new initiatives in the process".

Mr Wallace switches from his post as Assistant Secretary in the Government Secretariat, where he worked for 10 years. He previously worked for FIGAS from 1987 to 1991. Apart from a two-year stint with the Falkland Islands Company, Fraser has spent most of his career with the Falklands Civil Service, after graduating from the British Schools in Montevideo.

FIGAS is the vital internal air service linking the scattered communities of the Falkland Islands, carrying passengers and freight. The 1982 conflict left Stanley Airport in a shambles and its FIGAS aircraft destroyed. Vernon Steen and Aviation Director Gerald Cheek worked wonders to have FIGAS up and flying within a few months.

Vernon Steen

Vernon, who holds the South Atlantic Medal, and is husband to Gail and father to Barbara, Karen and Kimberley, worked for FIGAS for 26 years, first as an engineer, and since 1990, as General Manager. He oversaw its dramatic expansion, providing what he called "a very sociable and personal service". He says he is proud of its highly skilled and resourceful staff and "their dedication in providing the very best service in, at times, difficult circumstances".

HWB

Air Access for St Helena and Full British Citizenship



Jamestown, Capital of St Helena, with the famous steps, known as Jacobs Ladder, which lead up to the massive 19th century fortifications above the town. The town extends off the photograph up the valley to the right.

A large majority of St Helenians voted for air access in a referendum in January in preference to an eventual replacement of the vessel, *RMS St Helena*, that now serves the island.

Alltogether 71% approved the idea. In St Helena itself, 61% voted in favour, but in the Falklands, where many St Helenians work, 96% approved, as did 93% on Ascension Island.

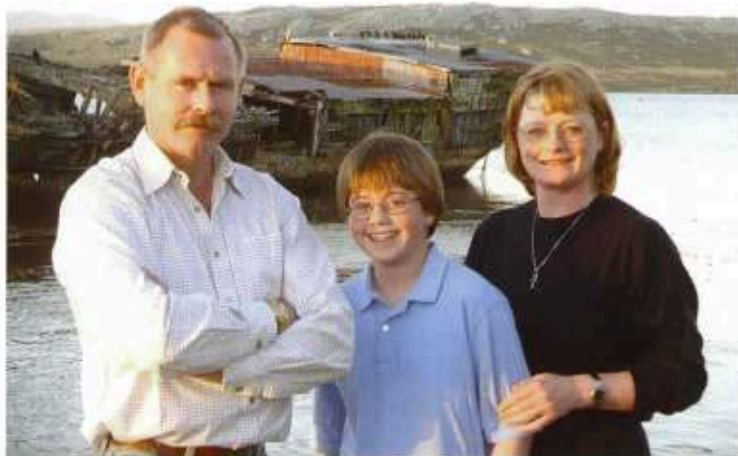
Air access has long been discussed in St Helena. It will end the isolation there and bring much needed economic development - particularly tourism - although some Islanders fear it might bring unwelcome influences. Despite the rugged nature of the Island, a suitable site for an airport exists on the North West coast.

Full British citizenship is also being restored to St Helenians and all others citizens of Britain's Overseas Territories this month. This will give them back the full rights they were deprived of in 1981 by the British Nationality Act.

Councillor meets the Queen - So does Stanley Girl



Her Majesty the Queen with Councillor Mike Summers



Councillor Mike Summers met the Queen at Buckingham Palace in March. He was attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Seminar in London, and personally passed on the Islanders' good wishes to Her Majesty.

Meanwhile, twelve-year-old Falklands schoolgirl, Emily Hancox, enjoyed one of the proudest days of her life, when she was presented to the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Charles at the multi-cultural Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey.

She was one of only five children to be presented to the Queen, who said to her: "Pleased to meet you, Emily".

Emily's ability as an artist won her a privileged place at the Commonwealth event. Emily won a Commonwealth Poster competition at school in Stanley, judged by the Governor, Donald Lamont, and her poster was selected for inclusion in a Commonwealth flyer called "Celebrating Diversity".

Emily and her father Bob Hancox travelled the 8,000 miles to London with funding from the Falkland Islands Government in recognition of her achievement. Emily said she was delighted to meet the Queen and expressed her appreciation to be able to make her personal contribution to such an important and successful event. She also had a reunion with both sets of grandparents who live near each other in Stourbridge, England.

The Hancox family settled in the Falklands in 1990 in response to a job advertisement for an engineer. Emily's mother, Rachel, stayed in Stanley to look after Emily's two sisters, Katy (15) and Alice (11).

Mrs Hancox said: "We're really proud of what Emily has achieved. We love our life in the Falklands. We have our own home, loads of pets, good jobs and we live in a great community. Emily loves the Falklands and won't hear a word said against the place. She even loves mutton chops!"

Emily is a keen horse rider and an achiever in this too, twice winning Junior Champion Jockey in the Islands.

Emily, photographed with her parents, Bob and Rachel, with Stanley harbour and the hulk of the Jhelum in the background. *Photo: Kevin Clapp*

Police Honoured for Bravery

Inspector Len McGill, Sergeants Graham Didlick and Jonathan Butler, and Leading Constables Gary Webb and Alan Geach were all honoured by a Governor's recommendation for bravery, skill and dedication during a serious incident involving firearms in 1999.

Sergeant Didlick (shown left receiving his award from the Governor, Donald Lamont) has been in the UK and Falklands police for a total of 25 years and was also awarded the Clasp and Rosette as additions to his Long Service Medal. He is well known for his skill with firearms and has often represented the Falklands in shooting competitions.

In the same ceremony, Chief of Police, Superintendent Dave Morris was awarded his Long Service Medal after 18 years in the Falklands Police, while Constable Simon Mawdsley was presented with the Police Federation Plate for high marks in the 2001 Probationers Course.

Anniversary Commemoration Events

Nostalgic Falklands visit for Prince Andrew



The Duke of York will visit the Falklands in November for events marking the 20th anniversary of the War. Prince Andrew, then only 22, served as a Royal Navy helicopter pilot, carrying out dangerous missions from the aircraft carrier, HMS *Invincible*.

In June, in earlier events commemorating the end of the conflict, the British Government

will be represented by Armed Forces Minister, Adam Ingram. Also invited as guests of the Falklands Government and chosen by popular appeal are a party of military personnel and civilians involved in 1982, most of them returning to the Islands for the first time since, with their partners.

Falklands "Freedom" for Armed Forces

After a church service on June 14th, wreaths will be laid at the Liberation Monument in Stanley, and the Governor, Donald Lamont, in accordance with a decision of the Legislative Council, will bestow the Freedom of the Falkland Islands on all components of the British Forces serving in the Falklands or the waters surrounding the Islands now or in the future.

The citation expresses Islanders' gratitude for preservation of their liberty and right to self-determination and for the Forces' help to the civilian community and support for local charities and good causes.

The Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands, Commodore R J Ibbotson, DSC, MSc, RN, will accept the Freedom. As is the tradition, units of the Forces will march through the streets of Stanley with bayonets fixed.

It is the highest honour that can be bestowed, conferred only once previously, to Margaret Thatcher. She visited the Islands immediately after the war and also in 1992, but this year declined an invitation, as the journey would be too gruelling for her husband, Sir Dennis Thatcher.

The Anniversary Committee Chairman, Lewis Clifton, said: "We will always remember those who defended our Islands and the principle of self-determination. We will remain forever thankful for their bravery and professionalism. We hold in highest regard those who continue to serve here." The Anniversary Committee also stated: "We will remember too all those Argentine soldiers who lost their lives under orders."

Calendar of events and Guests

There was a Memorial Service on May 6th to Harrier pilot Lieutenant Nick Taylor RN, at Goose Green, where he was shot down. Other ceremonies are on May 21st, when the Task Force went ashore at San Carlos; on May 29th, for the liberation of Goose Green; and on June 8th remembering those killed in Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram, at Fitzroy.

The official guests include: **Rear Admiral Sam Salt**, Commander of HMS *Sheffield* sunk by an Exocet missile.

801 Squadron pilots **Commander T.J.H. Gedge AFC**, Sea Harrier pilot; and **Group Captain Bob Iveson** who was shot down but evaded capture;

Captain Denis Scott-Masson CBE, Captain of the liner *Canberra* requisitioned as a troopship; **Captain Robin Green DSC**, of Sir Tristram;

Lt Col S.E. Southby-Tailyour OBE, who advised on the amphibious landings, and his wife Patricia. They spent a year in the Islands in 1978/79.

Brigadier David Chandler OBE, who took over 2 Para after Colonel H. Jones was killed at Goose Green; **Brigadier D.P. de C. Morgan OBE**, Commander, 1/7 Duke of Edinburgh's Gurkha Rifles; **Brigadier Roddy McDonald OBE**, Royal Engineers, who was mentioned in despatches;

WO Bill Slaney of the Scots Guards who fought on Mount Longdon;

Staff Sergeant Keith Walker BEM, Royal Engineers, who repaired war damage, including Stanley Power Station;

From Saint Helena, **Donald Bowers** represents RMS *St Helena* which cleared mines in 1982.

Civilian guests include **Dr Alison Bleaney OBE**, with her husband Mike. As senior medical officer at Stanley Hospital she supervised essential medical services and helped secure the Argentine surrender;

Les Hamilton, an amateur radio operator who relayed vital information from Tony Pole-Evans on Saunders Island to the Ministry of Defence.

Five members of the Falklands Families Association will also be guests of the FIG.

British veterans' mass visit

The Duke of York's visit is part of a pilgrimage by about 230 British veterans from the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA '82) between November 6th and 13th. It coincides with Armistice Day, which remembers and pays tribute to all the Commonwealth dead in two world wars and other conflicts.

A crowded programme includes visits to battle sites and war memorials, wreath-laying on land and at sea, and remembrance services in Stanley Cathedral and elsewhere.

To pay for the visit, SAMA is organising fund-raising schemes. The public are sending donations. Comedian, Jim Davidson, and the *Daily Express* have so far raised more than £80,000 towards the £350,000 needed to charter an aircraft.

Gratitude for Falklands' support

Falkland Islanders have also raised more than £15,000 and are offering "Bed for a Vet" accommodation.

SAMA secretary, **Denzil Connick** (photo right), said: "We desire most strongly to re-establish and strengthen links with the people of the Falkland Islands who are helping enormously. They really do want to show their appreciation and care for the sacrifices that were made on their behalf".

In contrast to unstinting Falklands help and hospitality, SAMA is disappointed by the lack of Ministry of Defence support.



Donations can be sent to the South Atlantic Medal Association, SAMA 82, PO Box 82, Blackwood, Gwent, NP 12 0YE. Telephone: 01495 227577. www.sama82.org.uk

Queen's Falklands Stone for Memorial

The Queen, along with many other people, has contributed a stone towards building a cairn as a permanent memorial at the Falklands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne. The stone, chosen by Falklands Governor, Donald Lamont, from Government House garden in Stanley, was flown from there by the RAF.

The Queen sent a message to a 20th anniversary ceremony at the Chapel, read out by 20-year-old Robbie Dent who was only six months old when his father, 2-Para Captain Christopher Dent, was killed at Goose Green.

The Queen's message read: "The events of 1982 remain clear in my mind, not least as the mother of a serviceman who fought during the Falklands War". Her son, Prince Andrew, was a helicopter pilot and is Patron of the Chapel.

A stone has been contributed by Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Colonel H. Jones, VC, also killed at Goose Green. She chose a stone from a Devon beach where she played as a child.

The ceremony was attended by Task Force Commander, Admiral Sir John "Sandy" Woodward, who said that if the Argentine troops had held out for another week, the result could have been different. "We were on our last legs", he said. "It was a lot closer run than many would care to believe".

Annual Service & Flower Festival

The ceremony was the first of a series of anniversary events at the Pangbourne Chapel. The annual Service of Remembrance, on Sunday, June 16th, at noon, is expected to attract the biggest congregation since the Chapel was opened by the Queen in March, 2000. The Duke of York is attending.

A Flower Festival by the Chapel Flower Guild from May 16th to 19th, was featuring 40 flower arrangements, which, the organisers say, "portray the journey through life and across the sea and land to Stanley in the Falklands". At the May 16th Evensong service the address was by the Bishop of Reading, the Right Reverend Dominic Walker. There were marching parades by the College pupils and a concert by Pangbourne Choral Society. Money raised by the Flower Festival will help provide flowers throughout the year.

Admiral Woodward war lecture

Admiral Woodward and the chaplain to the 2nd Paratroop Battalion in 1982, the Reverend David Cooper, gave lectures on May 17th entitled "War, a Spiritual Pilgrimage".

The names of the British who died in the Conflict are permanently commemorated at the Chapel on stone memorial plaques, in a leather-bound Memorial Book, and on a unique "Garden of Remembrance" website compiled by the South Atlantic Medal Association.

Appeal

The Trustees of the Chapel are appealing for funds for its upkeep. Any donation to the Gift Aid scheme is greatly welcomed. You can become a "Friend of the Chapel" for a donation of £25 or more per year. Friends' names are listed on a register in the Chapel foyer.

An appeal has also gone out for donations of memorabilia from the 1982 War to be auctioned to raise funds. Admiral Woodward launched the appeal by donating a sword and some oil paintings.



The Falklands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne Naval College

A 15-minute video of events that have taken place at the Chapel is also available for a donation of £5 plus £1.50 P & P.

The Secretary to the Chapel Trustees, Mrs Angela Perry is always pleased to answer queries about Chapel events. You can contact her at: Telephone 01869 233092 (Fax 01869 233382), 2 Soden Road, Upper Heyford, Oxon OX25 5LR.



The Falklands Bomb Disposal team present a cheque for £600 to Terry Peck for the Veterans Pilgrimage.

Call for Government Contribution

Major General Julian Thompson, who is credited with winning the Falklands land war, said: "As a commander, I would like to see the government give more support for the pilgrimage and to subsidise it. Many veterans need to go back to help them overcome their problems such as post traumatic stress disorder. It is very relevant and very, very important that they should go back. And when they see what it was all about, it will help them come to terms with their problems".

Argentine memorial go-ahead

The Falklands Islands Government has given approval to modified designs for the Argentine memorial to their war dead at Darwin cemetery. Previous designs regarded as too ostentatious have been reduced in size and re-positioned.

The design includes a cross, a statue of the Virgin of Lujan, a plaque on behalf of the Argentine people, and the names of the Argentine dead. The Argentines refused to allow repatriation of the bodies in 1982 for re-burial nearer their homes, claiming they were already in Argentine territory.

Royal Tribute at Falklands Families Service

The Prince of Wales and Baroness Thatcher and other major political and military personalities involved in the 1982 Falklands War were guests of the Falkland Families Association at their special anniversary reunion, memorial service and annual general meeting (on April 27th).

The Prince of Wales, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment and of the Welsh Guards, led those laying floral tributes at the Falklands Memorial in the beautiful Guards Chapel in London. The sermon was preached by the Reverend David Cooper, Padre to 2-Para in 1982, and a lesson was read by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, former First Sea Lord, whose advice led to the formation of the Task Force and its liberation of the Islands.

The Falklands were represented by Councillor Jan Cheek and London Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, who laid a tribute on behalf of the Islands. Both were presented to Prince Charles.

Baroness Thatcher, accompanied by her husband, Sir Dennis Thatcher, mingled with the families and stayed for lunch following the memorial service.

Distinguished guests

Among the many distinguished guests were the C-in-C Fleet, Admiral Sir Alan West, Commander of HMS Ardent when she was sunk in 1982; Field Marshal Lord Bramall, Chief of the General Staff in 1982; Land Forces Commander Major General Sir Jeremy Moore, and his chief field commander, Major General Julian Thompson; Commodore Mike Clapp responsible for 1982 amphibious operations; Major General Sir Michael Scott; General Sir Michael Jackson; Captain Scott-Masson, Captain of the Canberra in 1982; Captain Michael Barrow, chairman of Pangbourne Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trustees, and their secretary, Mrs Angela Perry.

Three former commanders of British Forces in the Falklands, Major General Iain McKay-Dick, Air Vice Marshal David Crwys-Williams and Major General Malcolm Hunt, and two former Governors, Sir Rex Hunt and William Fullerton, also attended.

Lady Thatcher wants to visit Islands again

The Prince of Wales asked Sukey Cameron how things



Prince Charles meets members of the Welsh choir, who sang at the Memorial Service.



Mrs Sara Jones, widow, of Colonel Jones, VC, who laid down his life at Goose Green, meeting Prince Charles.



Mrs. Perry, Secretary of the Pangbourne Chapel Trustees and her husband Mr. Perry and (right) General Jeremy Moore



Prince Charles meets Miss Sukey Cameron and members of the Falklands Families Association, who lost loved ones in the 1982 war.

All Photos by Debbie Ford

were in the Falklands Islands and Baroness Thatcher expressed her desire to visit the Islands again at some point.

The Falkland Families Association Chairman, Mrs. Sara Jones, widow of Colonel H. Jones VC, killed at Goose Green, thanked the Falkland Islands Government for their generous donation of £2,000 which enabled them to host the occasion. Sukey Cameron then read out a message to the Association from the Governor of the Falklands, Mr Donald Lamont.

The Association also received a donation of £3,700 from a military young leaders' college in Harrogate in Yorkshire with links with the Association's President, Mr Des Keoghane, father of a Welsh Guardsman killed in 1982.

The sum represents the distance from Ascension Island to the Falklands, which the donors raised by covering the same mileage in their gymnasium.

HWB

Defence Secretary Hoon urges Reconciliation

A strong call for the 20th anniversary of the Falklands War to be a time for remembrance and reconciliation and still better relations with Argentina was made by British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon on visits to the Falkland Islands and Argentina (in mid-March).

In this spirit, he laid wreaths at the Buenos Aires War Memorial as well as the Stanley Liberation Monument. He praised Falkland Islanders for approving the proposed monument at the Argentine cemetery at Darwin which he said "will be a worthy and dignified memorial for those brave men whose memory it honours, like the cemetery for the British war dead at San Carlos. The Islanders' decision is an extremely significant event in tune with the spirit of commemoration and reconciliation that should characterise this 20th anniversary".

Mr Hoon had talks with Argentina's Defence and Foreign Ministers and met all Argentina's military chiefs, saying that "excellent defence relations" could develop into "a thriving programme of military co-operation".

On a one-day visit to the Falklands, Mr Hoon stressed



the practical benefits of "wider co-operation with Argentina in areas of natural common interest" including fisheries and search and rescue missions, and called for more co-operation on a greater number of issues. Recognising Councillors' understandable anxiety, he reiterated Britain's absolute commitment to Islanders' right to self-determination and to defend the Falklands. He did not believe there is now a real threat from Argentina but Britain remained vigilant.

Councillor Norma Edwards told him Islanders had probably gone as far down the road of co-operation with Argentina as was possible. There really are not many other areas for co-operation unless Argentina drops its sovereignty claim, she said.

HWB.

Argentine Sneers

Typically, the announcement of Mr. Hoon's visit in Argentina's most popular newspaper *Clarín* on March 7th was used by reporter Ana Gerschenson as just another opportunity for more sneers, untruths and hostility towards Islanders.

Banned "Falklands Play" Broadcast - BBC Bias Exposed

A controversial radio and television drama about the 1982 War has at last been broadcast by the BBC, reversing a ban imposed 15 years ago on the fifth anniversary.

"The Falklands Play" was written by Ian Curteis, who accused the BBC of banning the play - which it originally commissioned - because he refused to tell lies criticising Margaret Thatcher, in her conduct of the war. He argued that his meticulously researched version was accurate and that the BBC imposed its ban because he resisted its mandatory changes. He was asked to remove scenes depicting Mrs Thatcher in a sympathetic light, for example showing her writing in her own hand to families of men killed in action, or exhibiting emotion or distress on news of their deaths.

He refused to insert scenes showing her in the War Cabinet cynically tailoring military decisions to the object of winning the next general election. Ian Curteis says he checked with the Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Lord Lewin, who confirmed that no such consideration ever played any part in the conduct of the war. BBC Executives could not produce any evidence to support their instruction. His play was replaced by

another called, "The Queens Arms", wrongly depicting the British during the Falklands War as drunken, nostalgic, flag-waving, bloodthirsty warmongers.

Play honours men who died

Ian Curteis says his play celebrates values and principles to be proud of: freedom under the law, democracy, the rule of law, self-determination, and our duties as free citizens.

It dramatically portrays the main events and issues, including War Cabinet deliberations, mediation attempts, the sinking of the cruiser *Belgrano*, and reaction to the loss of British ships and men. "The Falklands Play" is dedicated to the 255 British servicemen who lost their lives.

Mr Curteis declares: "For 20 years, the families and orphans of those killed have had to put up with television programmes and plays that say the war was pointless and should not have happened — in other words, their loved ones died needlessly and in vain. Now they have one which honours them, their only truly national memorial, and makes clear that their lives were given fighting to defend something of immeasurable value to the world".

HWB

Falklands Exhibition Opens

The "Falklands Explosion" Exhibition was opened at Gosport in May by Admiral Sir Jonathan Band, who will soon be C-in-C Fleet, in the presence of the Mayor of Gosport, the Hon Dennis Wright.

Located in the Priddy's Hard armaments museum, the exhibition has good exhibits of weapons and other memorabilia from the Falklands War.

Priddy's Hard, although not a well known museum, is well worth a visit. Its main building is the old 18th century gunpowder magazine, and at its side is the dock from where powder was rowed out in longboats to the fleets of Nelson and many other admirals. It was placed on the Gosport side of Portsmouth Harbour to protect the dockyard and the city of Portsmouth in the event of an accidental explosion. The Museum is open all year round. For more information telephone: 02392-505600.



Admiral Sir Jonathan Band tours the exhibition after the opening with Museum Director Chris Henry. The Falklands exhibition is open until the end of November.

John Nott's Story

"Here Today, Gone Tomorrow" by Sir John Nott, hardback, £20, published by Politico's, 8 Artillery Row, London, SW1P 1RZ, Tel: 020 7931 0090; E-mail: publishing@politicos.co.uk ISBN 1 84275 030 5

Falklands Navy Chief faced dismissal

More revelations of the conduct of the 1982 War are contained in a book by the British Defence Secretary at the time, Sir John Nott. He tells his version for the first time of the tensions in Margaret Thatcher's War Cabinet, of his feud with the head of the Royal Navy, of how British agents denied Argentina supplies of the feared Exocet missile, and how France advised on ways to counter the missiles.

The book's title "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow" derives from a controversial BBC television interview which he angrily quit when accused of being only a transient politician.

He reveals that the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, who persuaded Margaret Thatcher that the Falklands could be re-taken from the Argentines, when the Ministry of Defence advised they could not, was on the verge of being sacked or resigning a few months earlier for campaigning against Nott's proposed Navy cuts, including the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible and the Antarctic vessel, HMS Endurance.

The book says both Mrs Thatcher and Deputy Prime Minister Willie Whitelaw were outraged that he was undermining Nott's authority and said "he must go". But Nott successfully dissuaded them not to blight Leach's distinguished 40-year career.

Nott reveals that France and President Mitterand "were in many ways (Britain's) greatest allies". The most formidable weapon in Argentina's arsenal was the French built Super Etendard strike aircraft and Exocet missile which sank some British ships.

World-wide plot to block Argentine Exocets

Nott writes: "As soon as the conflict began Hernou (French Defence Minister) got in touch with me to make available a Super-Etendard and Mirage aircraft so our Harrier pilots could train against them before setting off to the South Atlantic. The French supplied detailed technical information on the Exocet, showing us how to tamper with the missiles".

Britain launched a clandestine international plot to block supplies to Argentina. "A remarkable world-wide operation then ensued to prevent further Exocets being bought by Argentina. I authorised our agents, to pose as bona fide purchasers of equipment on the international market, ensuring



The feared Exocet missile.

that we outbid the Argentines. Other agents identified Exocet missiles in various markets and covertly rendered them inoperable, based on information from the French. It was a remarkably successful operation. In spite of strenuous efforts by several countries, particularly the Israelis and South Africans, to help Argentina, we succeeded in intercepting and preventing the supply of further equipment to the Argentines".



Sir John Nott

Belgrano sinking "justified"

On the controversial torpedoing of the cruiser Belgrano, Britain, as well as declaring the 200-mile total exclusion zone around the Falklands, warned Argentina this was "without prejudice to the right of the UK to take whatever additional measures may be needed in its exercise of the right of self-defence, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter".

On April 23rd Britain sent a warning to the Argentine Government and published it internationally, declaring "Her Majesty's Government now wishes to make clear that any approach on the part of Argentine warships including submarines, naval auxiliaries or military aircraft which could amount to a threat to interfere with the mission of British forces in the South

Atlantic will encounter the appropriate response".

The Argentines did not similarly warn Britain before attacking the Royal Marines' barracks near Stanley.

"It is often forgotten that the only reason why we had not suffered loss of life to the Marines in the initial assault by Argentine forces was that following our receipt of the intercepted Argentine signal to invade, we instructed the Marines to abandon their barracks at Moody Brook and disperse themselves around the Island".

Nott says he is astonished that anyone should consider the "momentary compass bearing of the Belgrano's passage to be of any consequence whatever ... She was sunk in international waters in strict conformity with the warnings that we had given - and for us to have taken any other decision, given her threat to the Fleet, would have been a serious dereliction of duty on our part".

"Shocked by terrible loss of life"

"I was shocked when I heard of the terrible loss of life, and I regret it deeply...that was the consequence of a war we did not initiate ... This incident did in fact save many British lives. If we had been forced to contend with an aggressive Argentine navy as well as the courageous Argentine pilots, things might have been different".



Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach

Thatcher almost resigned over Falklands

Re-telling her version of the Falklands War, based on her memoirs, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher says she came close to resigning as Prime Minister when Foreign Secretary Francis Pym, recommended United States proposals which she regarded as "unconditional surrender".

Lady Thatcher writes: "I could not have remained as Prime Minister if the War Cabinet had accepted Pym's proposals. I would have resigned".

The proposals required withdrawal and dispersal of the British Task Force within 15 days, abandonment of sanctions against Argentina, permitting the Argentines to flood the islands with their own people to change the nature of the population, and refusing the Islanders a return to British administration.

"Did Francis Pym realise how much he had signed away?" she writes. "Why had we accepted almost unlimited Argentine immigration and acquisition of property on an equal basis with the Falkland Islanders?"

She dismissed US Secretary of State Al Haig's attempts at mediation as "fundamentally misguided".

She admits she had nagging fears about whether the task force had enough air cover, the whereabouts of enemy submarines, and was there time for a successful landing before the intolerable winter weather?



She was desperately anxious about casualties at San Carlos but in fact 5,000 troops were landed safely. "How the Argentine pilots missed the huge, white-painted Canberra, acting as a troop ship, I will never know".

Re-acting to the Ministry of Defence's advice that the Falklands could not be retaken, she says: "I could not believe it. These were our people, our islands". I said instantly: "If they are invaded, we have got to get them back".

Chief of Naval Staff, Sir Henry Leach, "quiet, calm and confident" told her a task force could sail in 48 hours. It was "despatched with a speed and efficiency which astounded the

world".

She expresses gratitude to French President Mitterand who, with the leaders of the Old Commonwealth, was among the "staunchest of supporters". And she praises US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger who supplied airstrip matting and the latest version of the side-winder missile, without which the islands could not have been re-taken. He even proposed sending the giant aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower to act as a mobile runway for the British forces in the South Atlantic. "America never had a wiser patriot nor Britain a truer friend".

Lady Thatcher's articles published in the Times newspaper are taken from her autobiography "The Downing Street Years", published by HarperCollins, priced £11.99. **HWB**

"Admiral Anaya, the most aggressive member of the Argentine junta and more than anyone responsible for the conflict in the first place, decided to keep the Argentine surface fleet in port following the sinking of the Belgrano. By neutralising the whole of the Argentine Navy, our decision proved to be correct and fully justified"

The Task Force Commander, Admiral Sir John "Sandy" Woodward, had also been given rules of engagement enabling him to attack the aircraft carrier Veinticinco de Mayo wherever he found her. A British submarine did detect her but as the land campaign was nearly over, it was decided not to sink her.

Chile's "importance very great"

Nott writes that South American countries declared their support for Argentina, with the single exception of Chile, "whose importance... with its long-standing rivalry and fear of Argentina... was very great".

"If we had been able to use a South American airfield, even for a diversion in an emergency, it would have made the whole operation easier... We wanted to use (Chile's) airfields for stationing our Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft so they could hunt down the Argentine submarines, which were a real threat. They would also have been valuable to monitor the movement of the task force... We had no satellite coverage at all of the South Atlantic.... I don't think we ever expected the Chileans would allow us to station aircraft on their soil, though... we tried to do a deal. We were never successful but in several respects the Chilean link proved very valuable to us".

"Splendid Weinberger and Pentagon"

Criticising the US State Department and President Reagan for their Latin American sympathies, Nott sarcastically writes: "I wondered if Reagan knew where Europe was.... the State Department was dominated by the Latinos, who saw President

Reagan's Latin American policy going down the drain".

By contrast he strongly praises US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and the Pentagon. "Weinberger was splendid from the outset. Ignoring the jealousies and rivalries in Washington, he ordered his staff to give maximum and urgent support to the British. We needed additional fuel supplies in Ascension, which the Americans supplied with their tankers. Valuable weapons, in particular the Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, supplemented and upgraded the capability of the Harriers, and a host of other incremental stores were all forthcoming without cost ever being mentioned".

Thatcher "courage and obstinacy"

Nott disagrees with Margaret Thatcher and many Americans who claim Britain could not have recovered the Falklands without American support. "I believe the decisive factor was Mrs Thatcher's firm and immediate decision to retake the Islands, despite the impressive military and other advice in the Pentagon to the contrary".

"We could have succeeded without US logistic and equipment back-up though the operation would have been infinitely more extended and hazardous...."

"It took weeks of determined diplomacy before the White House wholeheartedly declared itself on the side of the British.... Congress and American public opinion had come down heavily on our side. By doing so, it destroyed the support of the South American dictators for Reagan's anti-Communist crusade in Central America".

Praising Margaret Thatcher's leadership, Sir John Nott writes: "She had more courage and more obstinacy than a man.... She shut her mind to the risks of conducting such an adventure 8,000 miles away... In the last resort, it was a woman's war — and the woman in her won". **HWB**

How Falkland Islanders went to war

"Falkland Islanders at War", by Graham Bound, published by Leo Cooper, Pen and Sword Books, Freepost, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2BR. Telephone 01226 734555 E-mail: enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk Hardback, price £19.95 ISBN 0 85052 836 4.

How the Falkland Islanders went to war in 1982 to rid their country of the Argentine invaders with courage, ingenuity and vital practical help to the advancing British forces has been told for the first time.

They braved danger, deportation and imprisonment as they also spied on and carried out sabotage against the Argentines, carried out psychological propaganda, transmitted intelligence by radio, ferried ammunition and the wounded, guided the advance paratroop patrols and fought in the front line. Women as well as men were in the forefront of "the fighting farmers".

Their astonishing story of resistance during occupation is outlined in a book, "Falkland Islanders at War", by one of their own, Graham Bound, a journalist and founder editor of the Penguin News newspaper.

It is a riveting, well-written narrative, recounting in dramatic, graphic, and factual detail, tales of daring-do, based on eye-witness accounts hitherto surprisingly unknown to the world at large. It fills a big gap in the lexicon of more than 200 books about the Falklands War.

Two men who carried and used arms in the ferocious close combat battle for Mount Longdon — former police chief Terry Peck and air service engineer Vernon Steen — were awarded medals for their bravery, and a woman who organised the ammunition supply chain and evacuation of the wounded, Trudi Morrison (now Trudi McPhee) was praised by tough paratroop officers and won a military commendation from the Task Force Commander in Chief.

Heroes all, it is surprising that many more were not awarded medals. Here are their remarkable stories.

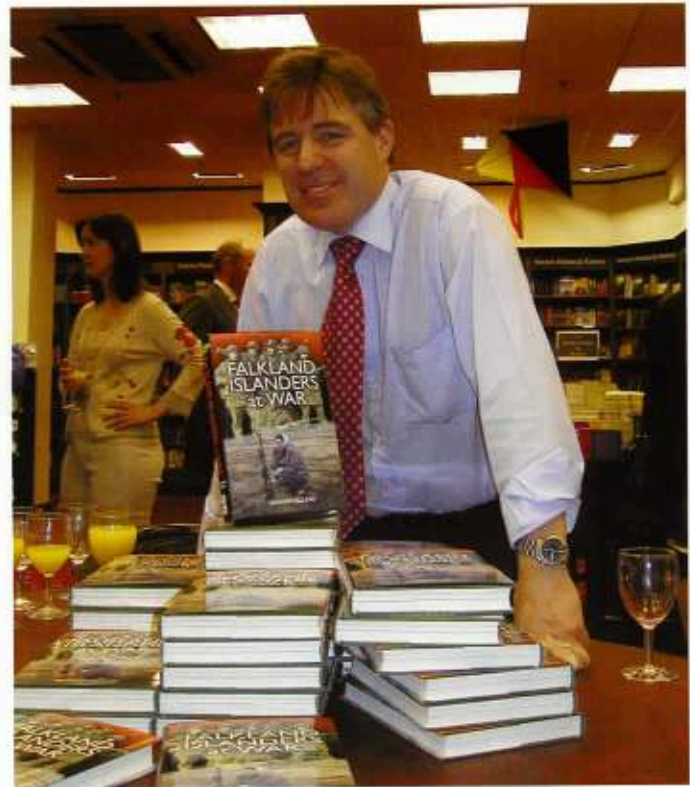
Front line fighter — code name "Rubber Duck"

Some of the most daring adventures were by Terry Peck, described as "a tough, gutsy maverick in his early forties... Terry Peck had the strength, determination and sheer guts to carry his mission through". He became a legend accepted by the paratroops as "a man of calibre".

In the initial stages, he walked about with a telephoto camera concealed in a length of drainpipe taking pictures of military targets which were smuggled out to British intelligence officers to study. "Locals thought it odd and Argentines must have assumed that Islanders often wandered the streets clutching a large piece of plumbing".

Tipped off he was about to be arrested by Argentine military intelligence, he fled Stanley on a motorcycle. He avoided capture at different times by sitting in a locked toilet or pretending to be a travelling plumber. He laid low for ten freezing days in the open in Geordie's Valley which he knew from fishing forays.

When he arrived at Trudi Morrison's Brookfield Farm



The author, Graham Bound at his book launch in April

caked in mud, she insisted he take a bath and threw something at him saying: "You have forgotten your rubber duck". Thus was born his code name as he carried a forged identity card on which his name was skilfully altered to "Jerry Packer".

Farmer Neil Watson helped him find weapons on Long Island beach buried by British marines before the surrender. Armed with rifle, ammunition and grenades, Terry Peck set off by motor-bike to meet the advancing British troops, guided from Salvador to San Carlos by fourteen-year old Saul Pitaluga on his motorbike.



Heavily armed Argentines enter Stanley during the invasion.
Photo: G.Bound

Terry Peck gave them valuable information and maps of Argentine positions and guided advance patrols, led by Major Pat Butler, ahead of the main force, to join battle for Mount Longdon, Terry Peck recalls: "It was unreal. We would get as close as possible without spitting in their eye, only tens of metres. I got a bit nervy on moonlight nights". He was stunned by the ferocity and brutality of the fighting. "The smell, the carnage, were unreal. There were bodies every-

rywhere".

Terry Peck went home to Stanley and "reverted to being a peaceful, law-abiding citizen". He says: "From my lounge I can sit and watch Mount Longdon. Some days, the sun reflects on the steel cross".

The quiet air service engineer

Vernon Steen, a NCO in the volunteer Falkland Islands Defence Force, joined Terry Peck as a guide on Mount Longdon scouting ahead for the group in which Sergeant Ian McKay was killed winning the Victoria Cross. They made it to

the first line of Argentine trenches capturing soldiers still in their sleeping bags. Vernon Steen is described as "a modest, shy man who does not talk about that night on Mount Longdon". But he fought alongside the paras as the bullets flew and guarded equipment for Sergeant McKay as his section "assaulted a machine gun nest and slipped into history".

Major Butler paid his tribute. "Vernon Steen bravely did what he was asked to do". After the surrender he returned quietly to Stanley to begin rebuilding the Falklands Air Service whose planes the Argentines had destroyed.

To overcome the challenge of getting ammunition and supplies up the mountains, Terry Peck suggested they exploit the islanders' tractors, trailers and cross-country driving skills to maintain a supply line.

He radioed Trudi Morrison: "Rubber Duck here. Can you get as many drivers and vehicles together as possible and meet us at the Heathmans". (Tony and Ailsa Heathman at Estancia Farm provided shelter and food for the 600-strong para battalion). Trudi responded: "There is no way I am going to miss this. I am doing my bit for my country".

Fighting farmers "undisputed woman leader"

As "the undisputed leader", she gathered a wagon train from every farm in the area, driving a Land Rover, with her partner, Roddy McKay "driving an old and incredibly noisy caterpillar tractor".

From Johnson Harbour came Bruce May and Claude Molkenbuhr; from Rincon Grande, Keith Whitney; from Port Louis, Trevor Browning and Andres Short; from Green Patch, Raymond Newman, Pat Whitney, Maurice Davis, Terry Betts, Mike Carey and Peter Gilding; joined by Patrick "Pappy" Minto and his brother Ally; and Terence Phillips from Mount Kent.

"The motley caravan rolled through the Para defences into Estancia.... Major Roger Patton developed a profound respect for their resourcefulness, determination, and downright courage, particularly Trudi". He says: "I don't know how we could have managed without them. Trudi was the focal point. It needed someone to get a grip and she took it upon herself to do so".

When being briefed by the military, one officer said: "Such was her strength of character, it was not always clear who was giving orders to whom".

She distributed the task to the tractor teams, who, with little sleep, moved 300 paratroops, rations, ammunition and water across trackless terrain, sometimes in driving rain, to their tactical position on Mount Estancia, shuttling supplies



An Argentine soldier poses. The photo is from an undeveloped film found in an Argentine trench after the war.

around the clock, within range of Argentine artillery and mortars and sometimes bomb attack. And they evacuated dreadfully wounded soldiers back to helicopters at Teal Inlet.

Terry Peck said: "I'd never seen driving like it. I don't think anybody could better it. They were just an amazing bunch of people... they just could not do enough to help". Major Pat Butler said: "I have the absolute deepest respect for them".

Trudi Morrison's commendation from the Commander in Chief, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse reads: "On June 11th, Mrs. Trudi Morrison drove a landrover in support of the 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment operation to secure Mount Longdon. Travelling across the most appalling terrain, without lights, she drove one of only three landrovers which successfully arrived at the mortar line.... At times under enemy artillery, Mrs. Morrison remained resolved to continue, showing tremendous steadfastness in dangerous and unfamiliar circumstances".

Radio Ham Hero

Reg Silvey, the Cape Pembroke lighthouse keeper and former British Antarctic Survey radio expert, indulged his hobby as a radio ham by transmitting intelligence to Britain at great risk throughout the occupation from his stone cottage, defying an Argentine ban on radios and radio detector vans which failed to find him.

His Falklands call sign "Victor Papa Eight" was picked up by a radio ham, Bob North, in Rotherham, Yorkshire. Silvey fooled the Argentines by handing in a spare radio smuggled to him by George Betts, captain of the *Monsunen* supply ship, dismantling his landmark normal aerial, adapting a brilliantly simple substitute — his steel-core washing line stretched across his garden, and illegally acquiring a notice signed by the Argentine Military Governor, General Menendez, denying entry to Argentine soldiers as, it proclaimed, his house had been cleared by the military police.

He thereafter indulged in serious spying with all its dangers, sending fifteen second bursts of intelligence about Argentine gun emplacements and revealing that Stanley Airport was occupied by Argentine soldiers and receiving ammunition supplies and could be attacked as there were no Islanders there. He was never arrested nor subject to arbitrary searches that plagued so many other Islanders. Nor was his dangerous work every officially acknowledged.

Brave broadcaster

Broadcasting officer, Patrick Watts, was to be awarded an MBE for his courage and stamina for a marathon invasion phone-in, relaying the Governor's messages as the invasion



Radio announcer Patrick Watts who manned the station during the invasion, until an Argentine officer put a pistol to his head to take over.

Photo: Peter King



General Jeremy Moore meets liberated Islanders

unfolded, and keeping Islanders informed even when Argentine soldiers burst into his studio with guns.

His broadcasts "sustained the islanders throughout the invasion night, with no exhortations to violence, no impassioned condemnation of the invaders, and certainly no suggestion of fear. The tone had been subtly subversive and defiant but dignified; indicative of a community that might be beaten but would not be bowed".

When Robin Pitaluga on Salvador farm used his radio to try to pass a message from the Task Force to the Argentines to surrender, heavily armed men were helicoptered in to arrest, interrogate and terrorise him by holding a revolver to his neck and pulling the trigger several times without his knowing it contained no bullets. He was tied up in a trench overnight then put under house arrest.

Denzil Clausen was beaten up because the Argentines thought he was transmitting messages when he was only tuning in to BBC World Service. Other radio hams at Port Louis — Chilean Mario Zuvic, Andres Short and his father, intercepted, confused and jammed Argentine signals.

Heroes all

Eileen Vidal, who manned the radio telephone system, relayed military intelligence to HMS Endurance and warned Captain Nick Barker to keep away from Stanley: "For God's sake stay the hell out of it. There are enough ships here to blow you out of the water".

Veterinary officer Steve Whitley was dissuaded from "sticking knives in Argentines". But he and teacher Phil Middleton indulged in "dangerous mischief", cutting army telephone wires with his vet's castrating scissors and took clandestine photos of Argentine defences. Others rendered Government vehicles unserviceable.

Canadian immigrant Bill Curtis tried on invasion night to redirect the Argentine aircraft beacon. He was at one stage arrested.

Eric Goss, Goose Green farm manager, and others hid petrol and immobilised tractors to deny them to Argentines and sabotaged water pipes serving the invaders. When the Argentines asked about lights in the distance presumably from British patrols, Eric made up the on the spot fiction that they were "a curious local phenomenon — moonlight reflecting on seaweed-covered rocks at low tide!

There was also psychological propaganda. When the Gurkhas arrived in the Falklands, Eric told the Argentines they were fearsome fighters. "When you wake up in the morning, just shake your head. If it falls off, the Gurkhas have been around".

Sabotage and spying

Graham Bound says no one indulging in low-key sabotage and spying knew what risks they faced but they would have been harshly treated as spies.

Dr. Alison Bleany, while looking after her baby, supervised essential medical services and was instrumental in arranging the Stanley ceasefire.

Eric Goss and Alan Miller at Port San Carlos helped by radio messages to arrange the ceasefire and surrender at Goose Green. Education superintendent John Fowler evacuated children from Stanley.

The men who maintained the electricity and water services are described in the book as "local heroes" as is 19-year-old Constable Anton Livermore. Electricians Les Harris and Bob Gilbert cut off Argentine power supplies and inserted low tolerance fuses to halt transformers serving the military.

Public Works Department head, Ron Bucket, and his staff made it clear they were working to maintain essential services for the Islanders for whom plumbers led by Dennis Plaice and Derek Rozee kept water supplies flowing for the Stanley residents.

Des King and his family sheltered Islanders in their Upland Goose hotel. Terry Spruce offered West Store as reserve shelter and helped prepare emergency survival packs. Safe houses were designated and marked for civilian refuge, equipped with short wave radio to receive BBC World Service.

Imprisoned at Goose Green and Fox Bay

After air raids on Goose Green and Stanley, the Argentines forcibly imprisoned all Goose Green residents in the community hall — 115 people including 43 children and two people over 80, at first with no food or bedding, and only two toilets. In breach of the Geneva Convention, they were kept in a building not marked as for civilian detainees and not provided with shelters against air and artillery bombardment. The prisoners lifted the floorboards to dig dank uncomfortable bunkers for safety as bombs and shells exploded.

They were not held as hostages but because the Argentines were paranoid about spies and fifth columnists. Convinced the prisoners were transmitting radio messages, the Argentines frequently carried out searches which no one escaped, not even four-month old Mathew McMullen. "They would look in his nappy while the watching adults hoped Mathew had a special surprise for them!"

They got a message to the catholic priest Monsignor Daniel Spraggon, who remonstrated with the Argentines to relieve their plight. A group of Stanley citizens were suddenly rounded up to be incarcerated together at Fox Bay. These included Brian and Owen Summers, Gerald Cheek, Stuart Wallace, and George and Velma Malcolm, who describes her arrest with characteristic bluntness: "A big burly bumptious bugger said: "You're going to camp... He had drawn his pistol and was standing over me, I said: "You don't need that gun. I'm not likely to do anything silly".

The book describes their experiences as "demeaning and terrifying".

Curfews, deportation and community spirit

"Shared dangers and self-help brought the community together. People who had bickered for years became firm friends". Compassion also extended to Argentine conscripts who were given food by Islanders.

There is a dramatic account of how three civilians — Sue Whitley, Doreen Bonner and Mary Goodwin — were killed and others injured in John Fowler's house by a misdirected British

Naval shell from HMS Avenger.

Curfews were imposed and Bill Luxton — “the famous vitriolic critic of the Argentines” — and his family from Chartres were forcibly deported to Britain. A positive side effect was that Bill gave the British forces useful intelligence information and launched a worldwide information campaign condemning the Argentines.

“Nice Argies, Nasty Argies”

The Argentine who caused most fear was the “sinister and dangerous” head of military police intelligence, Major Patricio Dowling, who personified “the Argentine terror machine”. He had detailed personal dossiers on Islanders and carried out arbitrary house searches and arrests. In one incident at Neil and Glenda Watson’s Long Island Farm, Dowling pointed a weapon at their young daughter Lisa and repeatedly ordered her to stand up. Lisa repeatedly said no and continued sucking her thumb, until Dowling gave up.

He was ordered home part way through the occupation by two “decent” senior Argentine officers. Comodoro Carlos Bloomer Reeve, described as “the acceptable face of Argentina”, a man of “humanity and bravery” who did a great deal to protect Islanders from the excesses of their compatriots in what he regarded as a misguided adventure. He was amiable, always smiling, not politically driven, having previously lived with his family and made friends with Islanders in 1975/1976 when he ran the Argentine Air Force passenger service to the Falklands. His 1982 task was to organise an interim military administration, helped by naval Captain Barry Melbourne Hussey, “a man of humane principles” who worked to help Islanders.

Orders were that Islanders were to be regarded as Argentine citizens and treated well. In these two officers, Graham Bound writes, “Islanders had gained powerful friends who, though Argentines, proved that fundamental decency could survive when all other strands of civilised behaviour were unravelling”.

Benign Whitehall warrior: Foreign Office deceit

Another person highly praised is Chief Secretary Dick Baker, for his cool, pragmatic reaction and organised leadership in the early days of the invasion until he was deported. “Dick



Dr. Alison Bleaney with Sir Rex Hunt and an unknown doctor, after the return to Stanley.

Photo Peter King

Baker was as benign and decent a representative of Whitehall as anyone could hope for and his presence was re-assuring”.

This is in contrast to his bosses, the Foreign Office, who come in for bitter Islander criticism for “deceit and inept management” of relations with Argentina and the crisis. Foreign Office policy since 1971 is described by one of its former Labour Ministers for Falklands issues, Ted Rowlands, as “kicking the ball into the long grass, and it would take a bit of time to find it”.

The British Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Anthony Williams, is described as fussing “around the Argentine Foreign office apologising for Islanders’ hostility and trying to patch up relations”.

Invasion predictable

The judgment of the official Franks’ Committee Report that Ministers in London could not have anticipated an invasion is dismissed with “disbelief” and derided as “ridiculous” by Dick Baker. He says efforts to sound alarm bells in London were wasted. “A lot of us did foresee it. The tragedy was no one in London seemed to want to know or to react to the signals.... Why nothing happened in response is a great mystery to me”. He suspected there was a deliberate policy to ignore the signals and weather an invasion in the hope that Britain would be rid of a troublesome colony. “We used to joke we were expendable”. Ordinary Islanders were kept in the dark but several came back from visits to Argentina convinced the Argentines intended to invade at the end of March.

A British colonel on a visit to Argentina is quoted as saying that he was warned of an invasion a year beforehand and shown amphibious personnel carriers that Argentines told him would be used in the invasion.

The Royal Marines Commanding Officer in the Falklands in 1982, Major Mike Norman, asked in an intelligence briefing how reinforcements might be sent to the Islands in a crisis and was cynically told: “We’ll parachute them in from Concorde”.

Gratitude is repeatedly expressed by Islanders to the BBC World Service. The “Calling the Falklands” programme and BBC correspondents on the Task Force and in Argentina were “essential listening”.

Harold Briley



The author with discarded Argentine weapons after their surrender.

Photo: G.Bound



The old Globe Store, burning after it was set alight by Argentine troops the day of the surrender.

Photo: P.King



Falklands music students play outside the Community School as part of a two-week fund raising effort for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Care for Children Charity



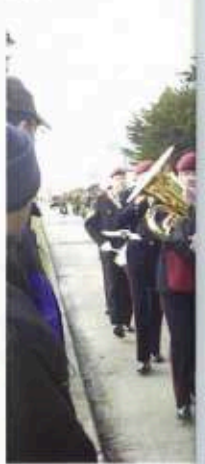
The BBC gardening programme "Gardeners' World" featuring Councillor Norma Edwards in the centre



Some of the 80 volunteers taking part in the annual Beach Clean organised by Falklands Conservation. These are at Whalebone Cove. Three skips of rubbish were collected.



Vicky Cripps who came top in the GCSE exams with seven A* grades, and won the local Commonwealth Essay Prize.



The Parachute Regiment part of the Queen's Jubilee



Steve Baker, General Manger of Cable & Wireless presents a cheque for £100 to Theresa Lang (left) and Alex Sanders (right) of the Cancer Support and Awareness Trust (CSAT). Any patient going to Britain for cancer treatment receives a £20 phone card from CSAT and their families in the Falklands get £100 per month towards the cost of keeping in touch with their loved ones in Britain



Dr. Jorge Stanham, Director of the British Hospital in Montevideo, and his wife Alice visiting the Falklands. His hospital often cares for Islanders
Photo: P. Watts



and Force" team in the Falklands, with
All Photos by Penguin News except where shown



132 young Islanders took part in the Mount Tumbledown Run this year. Kyle Biggs won the boys competition and Roxanne Morrison the girls.



iment Band parades through Stanley as
s birthday parade
Photo: PWatts



Falklands youngsters at the Mount Pleasant School for three days where they met up again with the MPA children who joined them at the Hill Cove camp last year.



The Triathlon Games that involve swimming, cycling and running were held in February. Above: Cyclists get ready for their part of the competition. Right: Darren Brown, winner of the individual section. The games were sponsored by Mike Allan Shearing Contractor, and organised by Stanley Running Club, Stanley Leisure Centre and the Community School.

Captain Cook's Historic Voyage Revisited



Round the World Voyage

A multi-national crew of 54 qualified personnel and many non-sailors are currently sailing around the world in the majestic ship 'Endeavour', a replica of the original ship in which Captain Cook sailed on his voyage to discover Australia.

The new 'Endeavour', a 3-masted bark like its predecessor, stopped off in Port Stanley for 2 days, just as the original vessel did back in the 18th century, bringing stores from Britain to the small British settlement which then existed on the Falklands.

Captain Cook's ship was a Royal Naval vessel, known officially as H.M. (His Majesty's) 'Endeavour', and the bark reportedly made 3 visits to the Falklands in those early days.

The present-day vessel is re-tracing the route taken by Captain Cook, and the next stop after leaving the Falklands will be Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. The 'Endeavour' will end her voyage in Whitby in the northeast of England, exactly where Captain Cook ended his voyage hundreds of years previously.

Such was the demand from enthusiasts to join the historic voyage, no fewer than thirty-four of those on board were more than happy to pay thousands of dollars for the privilege of working on board. The remaining 20 make up the permanent crew for the entire voyage.

One third of the crew is made up of females while the youngest crew member is an 18 year old girl, and the eldest a 72 year old man!

Above: The Endeavour at sea a few miles off Port Stanley.
Photos by Kevin Clapp

Below: The Endeavour tied up alongside at FIPASS, the floating dock complex at Stanley.



Hundreds of Islanders took the opportunity to visit the bark while it was berthed in Stanley, while Governor and Mrs. Lamont were officially welcomed on board. A reception was also given for the crew in Stanley's recently opened tourist centre.
Patrick Watts

Falklands Oil Team in Texas

A Falklands oil team attended the 2002 conference of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in Houston in March. This attracted a total of 7,700 delegates from all branches of the oil industry as well as from countries marketing new oil prospects such as the Falklands.

The Falklands were represented by Director of Mineral Resources, Phyllis Rendell, Oil Statics Manager, Alex Blake, Dr. Phil Richards of the British Geological Survey and Councillor Stephen Luxton, who is a graduate geologist.

Licensing information, seismic sections, and general information about the Falklands were all available. Stephen Luxton told Penguin News that about half of the top ten oil companies in the world had visited the stand during the three day conference and several of these were interested in further discussions. "The whole conference proved to be a useful marketing opportunity for Falklands exploration".

Right: Alex Blake, Phil Richards and Phyllis Rendell in front of the Falklands stand.



Chinese Delegation Visits

The first ever business delegation from mainland China (photo opposite) visited the Falklands in March, organised by Seafish Falklands following a trip by Manager, Hamish Wylie, last September. The delegation was made up of businessmen interested in fishing and fish processing. It included a representative of the regional government of Zhoushan, where many Chinese jiggers fishing in Falklands waters come from.

Mr. Wylie commented, "Without making such a visit it is very difficult for them to get a handle on how our fishery works and how they may participate further. Building up a solid business relationship with Chinese clients takes many years and this visit is part of the process".



School Concert

Both the Infant/Junior and Community Schools contributed talented young musicians to a concert in April. The evening was the culmination of a "Practice-a-thon" in aid of the Malcolm Sergeant Cancer Care Children's Charity, that required the young musicians to practise every day in the two weeks running up to the concert.

Music teacher Shirley Adams-Leach told Penguin News that they had raised over £1,200 with £184 just from the final evening concert.

Shown left are the combined Junior and Community School choirs with the CS Guitar Club in the foreground. Below Left are flautists Alex Cripps and Hannah Arthur-Almond with Andrew Jarvis on the clarinet. Below are accordionists Amy Cruikshank, Samantha Brownlee with tutor Jenny Cockwell.



South Atlantic Medal Association: AGM and News



Above: Islander, Cpl Steve Ford of the Light Infantry, was a welcome guest of SAMA at the Twickenham game.

Photo: Debbie Ford

Left: Veterans Denzil Connick and Dr. Rick Jolly conduct the SAMA Annual General Meeting

Photo: Nigel Hawks.

The South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA-82), the Falklands War veterans organisation, held a successful AGM at Twickenham on May 4th to coincide with the Army/Navy Rugby match. Some 230 members attended as did Falkland Island Government Representative Miss Sukey Cameron and two of her staff, Debbie Ford and Jenny Smith.

SAMA reported very successful fund raising for its Pilgrimage in November to the Falklands. Daily Express readers have raised £43,500, while Islanders have raised £15,000. In total this is more than half the sum required.

A message of support and affection from the Falklands was sent by HE Governor Donald Lamont and read out by Sukey. SAMA passed a resolution unanimously saying that:

"Falkland Islanders have the absolute and unalienable right to control their own destiny".

Falklands Battle Stress Court Case

The Royal Navy surgeon who saved both British and Argentine lives in the Falklands War, Dr. Rick Jolly, has told the High Court in London that many of the 29,000 men in the British Task Force were not mentally prepared for battle.

He was giving evidence on behalf of about 2,000 veterans who claim their experiences in the South Atlantic and other conflicts, caused traumatic stress.

Their action against the Ministry of Defence alleges they were inadequately prepared for exposure to the terrifying and horrific experiences of war and that the MoD failed to deal with the predictable psychological or psychiatric consequences.

Contesting the case, the Ministry acknowledges service personnel may suffer trauma and stress and that it has a duty to ensure they receive proper treatment. But it denies negligence and lack of care.

Dr. Jolly commanded the field hospital at Ajax Bay, which treated 600 battle casualties, not one of whom died. The makeshift hospital, an abandoned refrigeration plant, was so close to potential military targets it was impossible to isolate it from attack. With no Red Cross markings, it came under bomb attack, which killed five people and injured 27.

Unimaginable horrors of war

Dr. Jolly, who had two psychiatrists in his medical teams, told the Court it is vital for men suffering from the horrors of battle to talk to people who had shared similar experiences. But

The Next Generation

Dr. Rick Jolly has now started a job as Medical Examiner in the Plymouth and Redruth areas for young people intending to join the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force. Quite by accident, he discovered that a successful candidate for the Navy was the daughter (unborn at the time) of a Royal Marine who was killed in the war. Dr. Jolly is working hard to ensure she is part of the Pilgrimage!

The Match

The Navy scored at least one try against the efficient kickers of no less than six penalties.

So Navy partisans believe that the Dark Blue could be said to have been moral victors. However, the final score was 18 - 13 to the Army.

a "stiff upper lip" culture often prevented mentally scarred soldiers from discussing their suffering.

The veterans' barrister, Stephen Irwin, said they were not suing for exposure to war. "War is what servicemen should expect", he said. "It is also what their masters should expect and they should provide for exposure to the horrors of war... So far as they had a system, it did not work properly to protect and care for the soldiers, sailors and airmen... In battle, they face unimaginable stress".

It is alleged that the majority of those affected by trauma were discharged without even a recognition of their complaints, let alone treatment. A quarter of the people sleeping rough without a roof over their heads in Britain are said to be ex-servicemen suffering from stress, and that many have committed suicide both in Britain and Argentina.

Compensation pay-outs possible

The veterans are not suing for compensation, but the judge could order pay-outs, which could be as much as £300,000 each for loss of earnings and ruined lives.

For the life-saving work of his medical teams, Dr. Jolly was the only veteran to be awarded medals from both sides, the OBE, and the Argentine "Order of May". His book about his Falklands experiences, "The Red and Green Life Machine", has been updated and re-published. He is founder chairman of the South Atlantic Medal Association.

Harold Briley

Sir Galahad horror - Weston Spirit

Foundation gives hope to despairing youngsters

Of all the recollections of the Falklands war, none are more poignant than those of Welsh Guardsman, Simon Weston, who re-lives the horrifying experience of being badly burned along with other guardsmen when the assault ship Sir Galahad was set ablaze by Argentine bombs at Fitzroy.

He has described his experiences in a BBC television documentary "Simon's Heroes" in which he returned to the Falklands battle sites to tell what happened with some of the men who fought them.

The film contrasts the peaceful Falklands now with dramatic archive film, including Sir Galahad on fire as rescue helicopters hovered dangerously close to the flames and smoke. Simon Weston spoke again to the medical orderlies and surgeons, who saved his life at Fitzroy and the emergency field hospital at Ajax Bay.

After four years in hospital and more than 75 operations, he was determined not to let hatred ruin the rest of his life. Recovering from intense pain and despair, he married his pretty wife in the Guards Chapel, London, and now has two sons, aged ten and eight, and a daughter, aged four.

Freedom of the City of Liverpool

He pursued his rehabilitation and salvation by helping



others, creating a charity called "Weston Spirit" to motivate teenagers who lack opportunity and hope and feel they have no future. It began in Liverpool where this year he was awarded the Freedom of the City, Merseyside's greatest honour. He has previously been awarded the OBE.

From its humble beginnings, the charity has spread to London, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Sunderland, Cardiff, and Merthyr Tydfil. This year it plans to help 13,000 teenagers by way of personal and social development programmes.

"No glory in war"

His experience and the lasting effects graphically bring home the reality. "I see the Falklands every day when I go for a wash, clean my teeth, and have a shave. I am indelibly stamped with it. It is there for everybody to see. I cannot hide from it. I cannot walk away from it."

On war and its victims, he says: "Conflict is not a game. There is nothing glorious or glamorous about potentially taking somebody's life or having your own taken. There is no glory in war... There will always be some mother's child who dies and someone left behind to grieve... To those who did not come home, I will always miss them. I will always remember them. With all my heart, I salute them".

HWB

Commander Launches Fund

The Commander of British land forces which liberated Stanley in 1982, Major General Sir Jeremy Moore, has described how a liver transplant saved his life when he was diagnosed as having cancer. In gratitude to his medical teams, he launched a fund-raising initiative for London's Kings College Hospital liver transplant unit, with a target of £30,000*.

Sir Jeremy was hailed as a hero when he took the Argentine surrender and sent the famous message that the people of the Falklands were once again under the Government of their choice. He returned to the Islands with Lady Moore in 1992 for the tenth anniversary and stayed with Mike and Phyllis Rendel. An avenue in Stanley is named after him.

Sir Jeremy, now 73, fell ill and was told he had a cancerous tumour in his liver. Sir Jeremy said: "Though the news was a bombshell, I wasn't frightened. For 36 years my life was soldiering. I have been shot at.... so there have been many times when I have expected not to survive".

Commando fund-raising march

November marked the first anniversary of his operation and coincided with the 51st anniversary since he passed the qualifying test for the Royal Marines Three Commando Brigade. "The course ends with a 40-mile march across Dartmoor, and I decided to do a 30-mile sponsored walk for the liver unit (of King's College Hospital) alongside the young Marines.... I recovered my cloth uniform cap for the walk. It was on loan to the Falklands Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. I wore it



The famous photo of General Jeremy Moore at the West Store just after the liberation of Stanley meeting amongst others Mrs Sheridan with her baby, and Katrina Stephenson (nee Clarke). Photo: Royal Marine Museum, Eastney

rather than my green (Royal Marines commando) beret during the Falklands because I was commanding a division and I didn't want to show any bias. I was with all of our troops — and they were all my boys".

*(Donations to: The Liver Transplant Surgical Service Research Account, Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS)

Harold Briley

Argentine Crisis Worsens

In the first four months of this year, 102,500 Argentine businesses have collapsed. In the same period, 280,000 Argentines have officially lost their jobs - although the real figure is much higher. The property market has been wiped out. The textile and many manufacturing industries have become idle. Most importing businesses have just ceased trading. 49% of the people are now reported to be living below the poverty line.

Banking restrictions still prevent people from accessing their own bank accounts. These are necessary because without them people would withdraw all their money causing the banks to collapse and would then buy dollars causing the peso to collapse too. But infuriated savers have now held more than 2,000 demonstrations protesting against this. These often take the form of "cacerolazos" which involve beating pots and pans (cacerola in Spanish) to make a noise. Working class Argentines block roads or sack supermarkets for food. Politicians often get harassed in public places if recognised. Many politicians aren't go out because of this.

Despite many restrictions on the purchase of foreign currency, Argentines often join long queues to buy dollars just to get something that will retain its value. As a result, the peso was quoted at 3.4 to the dollar when the Newsletter went to press in May - less than a third of its value in December.

Many Argentine provinces can't pay their employees leading to a number of riots. They are now printing "patacones", local currencies worth little more than the paper they are printed on, to get round this. Argentina continues to negotiate with the IMF for yet more loans - so far without success.

Police Kill 60 Young People - Argentine Crime Figures

With the 20th anniversary of the war, there was a predictable call from one political commentator for a negotiated settlement with Argentina - ie a handover. Readers can imagine just what association with Argentina would involve for Islanders from the following horror stories.

A Policeman killed every two and a half days!

There are on average four murders per day just in Greater Buenos Aires. Just in the Province of Buenos Aires a juvenile is arrested for murder, on average, every two days. By April 15th, there had been 53 such arrests so far this year. By April 7th, while resisting armed robberies in the province, 41 policemen had been killed, on average, one every two and a half days!

But Argentine policemen are amongst the most corrupt in the world, and well known for thuggery, and complicity in much of the crime. There are many recent examples of this.

The worst was exposed last October, when the Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires announced that 1000 young people had laid complaints of torture etc. against the police in the previous eighteen months. Incredibly, the Court reported that 60 of these complainants were subsequently killed in confrontations with the police! So far no policemen have been tried for this, but the provincial "Justice" Minister was replaced, so was the chief of police in Lomas de Zamora (a suburb of Buenos Aires) and eight of his men suspended.

Police bombing campaign

For several days in June last year, the city of Mendoza was plagued by a series of small bomb explosions and bomb hoaxes. There were four altogether, the worst outside a church nursery on June 9th, which, luckily, did not harm any of the children. Argentine newspaper, *La Nacion*, reported that the provincial government (and every one else) thought it was the work of men

Argentine War Celebrations

On April 2nd, Argentina celebrated its 1982 attack on the Falklands with a major parade in Ushuaia, the capital of the Province of Tierra del Fuego (TDF) that, since 1990, has pretended to include the Falklands.

Some 2,600 Argentine veterans of the 1982 war gathered there and paraded through the streets all holding an Argentine flag, two kilometres long! President Duhalde attended the celebration claiming the Falklands five times in a speech that was only limited in its rhetoric by his wish not to upset Britain enough to reduce the chances of getting IMF aid for his bankrupt country. Carlos Manfredotti, Governor of TDF made a more belligerent speech, and many veterans expressed their willingness to return to war. President Duhalde then returned to Buenos Aires for more ceremonies to mark the event there. "Malvinas Day" is celebrated as a public holiday in Argentina.



A "Cacerolazo" outside a Buenos Aires bank. There have been more than 2,000 of these protests since December.

recently purged from the local police - with help from colleagues who were still in the force. On June 11th there was a demonstration in Mendoza against this appalling police conduct.

Releasing prisoners to steal

The Argentine prison service has demonstrated its capacity for crime too. Last November, an investigation began into allegations that prison staff were releasing convicted criminals so they could carry on robbing - and splitting the proceeds with them when they returned to jail after a day spent in crime. Two of the accused criminals have since been murdered in prison, probably to silence them, and the investigating judge threatened.

Police allowing prostitution?

In April the Head of Police in the Province of Buenos Aires resigned following allegations that he, eleven other officers and eight municipal officials had accepted \$18,000 per month to allow a prostitution ring to operate two years earlier.

Policemen on trial for terrorism against Jews

Last but not least, some ten policemen accused (with four civilians) of blowing up the Jewish Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires are still on trial. 85 people were killed in this atrocity whose instigators have never been identified. The policemen concerned are alleged to have acted for money.

Corruption investigators fail

Colin Powell, US Secretary of State, said recently that Argentina must attack corruption and its politically oriented justice system and have open government if it wants to get out of its crisis. Apropos this *La Nacion* reported on May 7th that since the Argentine anti-corruption office was opened in December 1999, it has investigated 1784 allegations, and initiated 489 legal cases. So far it has not got one single conviction.

Falklands in Focus - Belfast

The "Falklands in Focus" exhibition of photographs and displays of Falklands life opened at Queen's University, Belfast in May. The exhibition was opened by Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Dr. John Reid MP. Miss Sukey Cameron and others from the Falklands Government Office in London and a number of local supporters attended. The exhibition will be shown at the Lincoln's Inn Reception in June.



Above: Mrs Emma Ballantyne, her mother Mrs Sandra Cunningham and Mr and Mrs Ian McPhee at the exhibition.

Left: Dr. Jim McAdam, Miss Sukey Cameron, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Dr. John Reid, MP, and Professor Gerry McCormack.

Photos: Debbie Ford

"Memories of the Falklands" - Book Review

Of all the books written about the Falklands War none captures the mood in so personal a way as "Memories of the Falklands" because it brings together the vivid recollections of 66 diverse individuals. Some were at the heart of the crisis and the war; others looked on from a distance. They included several Falkland Islanders, some of the Commanders who directed the battles and front-line servicemen who fought them at close quarters; the wounded, the doctors, the politicians, diplomats, and journalists. The book is illustrated with 50 photographs. It also carries a role of honour of all the Task Force dead, and a timetable of the sovereignty dispute.

Former Governor Sir Rex Hunt describes in graphic detail the events leading up to the invasion, the fighting, the ceasefire and his frosty dealings with the Argentine invaders. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher tells how the decision to send the Task Force was taken and how she felt when it was all over. "For the nation as a whole, though the daily memories, fears and even the relief would fade, pride in our country's achievement would not".

HMS Coventry's captain, David Hart Dyke, tells how his "world stopped" in the flash and heat of bombs raining down and destroying his ship, and how he was the last of the survivors to jump into the sea to the safety of their life-rafts.

Major General Julian Thompson, whose Commando Brigade had bravely fought their way across the rugged terrain, tells of the surrender at Stanley. "It was", he says, "a moment to savour".

Two of the wounded tell of their pain and anguish. **Welsh Guardsman Simon Weston**, severely burned on Sir Galahad, describes his frustration and helplessness, lying immobile in the hospital ship SS Uganda, as his eyelids were repeatedly cleaned to save his sight. **Paratrooper Denzil Connick** remembers how he was blown into the air by an Argentine shell, rolled over and saw his appalling wounds. "My left leg was blown clean off and my other leg was a mass of blood and raw flesh".

The most poignant scene of all is described by **Surgeon Commander Rick Jolly**, whose medical teams saved the lives of so many wounded as well as tending to the dead, burying them with reverence and dignity. As the dead were helicoptered from Goose Green, he recalls how "Silently, sadly, we unloaded

the bodies, placing each corpse on its own stretcher...I prepared the bodies, one by one, for burial...I carefully examined each man to confirm his identity, and certified both death and its primary cause". The funeral took place at "a beautiful spot, a carefully chosen, silent hillside". As Padre David Cooper's "firm voice rolled through the now familiar words, the emotional pressure wound up to a crescendo. Eyes that were red with tiredness and strain now brimmed over with silent tears that splashed down on to the soggy earth. 'Ashes to ashes, dust unto dust...' Led by Major General Moore, we saluted our friends and colleagues in a final reluctant farewell, and walked away".

Harold Briley

"Memories of the Falklands", edited by Iain Dale, hardback, 256 pages, £20, published by Politico's, 8 Artillery Row, Westminster, London, SW1P 1RZ. Tel: 020 7931 0090, e-mail: publishing@politicos.co.uk ISBN 1 84275 018 6.

All royalties from this book will go to the British Forces Foundation, which helps entertain British troops overseas.

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Protection for Falklands warship wrecks

All the British warships sunk in the Falklands War are included in special protection measures announced by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to prevent divers from plundering the wrecks. They are among 21 British warships world-wide in which thousands of British servicemen lost their lives.

They are to be put into two categories. Five ships in the top category include the RFA Sir Galahad, on which 50 men were killed and many others severely burned, mostly Welsh Guardsmen, when the ship was bombed on June 8th, 1982.

The wreck is to now out of bounds to divers under "a look but don't touch" policy, preventing entry to wrecks and removal of items. The other four vessels in this category include some of the biggest ships sunk in the 1939-1945 war, all in 1941, with huge loss of life: HMS Hood in the North Atlantic; HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse off Malaysia; and HMS Gloucester off Crete.

Four destroyers and frigates sunk by Argentine air attacks in the South Atlantic are among sixteen vessels protected by stringent rules designating them as "controlled sites" where diving without a licence is now prohibited. They



The RFA Sir Galahad in flames. It is now a protected war grave. Photo: Royal Marines Museum

are HMS Sheffield, in which 20 men were killed; HMS Coventry (19 dead); HMS Antelope (two dead); and HMS Ardent (22 dead). Ardent's Commander, now C-in-C Fleet, Admiral Sir Alan West, recently paid his first official visit to the Falkland Islands where he was awarded the DSC in 1982.

Not mentioned in the list is the merchant ship, Atlantic Conveyor, also sunk in 1982 by Argentine Exocet missiles, with her precious cargo of helicopters and other supplies.

"Vile and abhorrent practice"

Announcing the protection measures in Parliament, Ministry of Defence Under-Secretary, Dr. Moonie, said: "I hope those who have disturbed or plundered the last resting places of those whose lives were lost in the service of their country will now realise that this vile and abhorrent practice will not be tolerated".

The penalties are seizure of diving equipment and boats, and fines up to £5,000. War survivors' associations say many wrecks are being plundered and are at greater risk because of advances in sports diving and salvage techniques. The MOD has evidence that pieces from wrecks were being sold on the open market. **HWB**

Falklands dilemma as historic shipwrecks fall apart

Action on whether and how some of the most important historical shipwrecks of the nineteenth century, in Stanley Harbour, can be preserved for future generations is being considered by the Falklands Government. They are studying an expert report they requested from Michael Stammers, the Keeper of Merseyside Maritime Museum, for him to advise on the wrecks and options for their preservation.

He has returned from ten days of intensive research, financed by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, in which he focused mainly on a celebrated American ship, *Charles Cooper*, on which he helped to carry out a survey more than 20 years ago with the South Street Seaport Museum. He describes her as "the only example of an American emigrant ship left in the world, other than wrecks on the seabed". She traded between Antwerp and New York, and was eventually condemned as unseaworthy at Stanley, where she then had a useful new career as a Falkland Islands Company store ship.

Pernicious Seaworms Teredo and Gribble

His report makes sombre reading. The only way he believes that parts of the *Charles Cooper*, such as the bow, can be preserved is to re-assemble them ashore under shelter. He believes other shipwrecks can be preserved where they are, but only at considerable cost. Battered by wind and tide and their crumbling woodwork eaten away from within by two pernicious sea worms, the teredo and the gribble, they are in danger of disappearing altogether.

Michael Stammers' research has filled in many gaps in the history of the *Charles Cooper* and other vessels, and on Stanley's role as refuge for ships damaged by storms rounding notorious Cape Horn. He was the author of an earlier monograph on the Liverpool built ship, *Jhelum* (photo above right), which lies in Stanley Harbour, and is sending data on the Welsh ship, *Fleetwing*, to the Maritime Wales Historical Society.



Praise for Falklands excellent archives

He told the Newsletter how grateful he was for the "comprehensive and rich records in the excellent archives" built up by Government Archivist, Jane Cameron. These have also produced valuable new insight into the world's first great ocean liner, the *SS Great Britain*, brought back from the Falklands and preserved for posterity in Bristol.

Museum Curator John Smith accompanied him on ship-board surveys, and he pays tribute to many other Islanders who gave him valuable help. **HWB**

SS Uganda

The SS Uganda Trust is offering copies of its book *Uganda* to Newsletter readers at £23 plus £2.95 P&P.

This fine book has two chapters on the Uganda's role as a hospital ship in the 1982 War and another to its role after this, when it ferried troops, etc, from Ascension to the Falklands. The rest is about Uganda's time on the UK to East Africa route and as a educational cruise ship. It has over 50 colour illustrations, over 400 in black and white - and 472 pages!

Copies may be obtained from: SS Uganda Trust, Tarven, Corfe Lodge Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9NF. Telephone: 01202-694338

“Wonderful paintings of Falklands life”

Some of the best paintings ever to depict the Falkland Islands have gone on show in London amid high praise for the painter, David McEwen, whose visit was sponsored by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

Falklands Councillor Richard Cockwell said: “When I look at his paintings, I always want to cry because they are so good. It is wonderful to see the Falklands presented in this way so people can see it is not the grim dark place we saw in 1982. It is full of light, of changing places and changing things... a wonderful place to visit... A Member of Parliament who visited recently, came away thinking ‘Wow the Falklands is a different place from what I thought it was’”.

Councillor Cockwell was opening an exhibition of some of the fifty paintings, in water colour and oil, that this prolific British artist produced, depicting facets of Falklands life including land and seascapes, ships and ship wrecks, portraits of Islanders, wildlife, horses and dogs. Some have already been sold. Falklands London Representative, Sukey Cameron, called them “fantastic paintings” evoking happy memories and, she hoped, encouraging potential visitors.

Exhibition will go to Falklands

David McEwen and his wife, Sally, came to London for the opening of the exhibition. They run a painting school, with B & B accommodation, at their home in Lodeve, France.

He fell in love with the Islands and Islanders and their way of life and declared: “If I didn’t live in Lodeve, the only other place in the world I would like to live and paint is the Falklands”.

Councillor Cockwell described how it was on a painting holiday staying with the McEwens that he realised how David McEwen’s versatile artistic talent could so faithfully depict Falklands life.

The artist plans to re-visit the Falklands with his wife later this year and show his collection there.

Falklands victor buys evocative picture.

At the exhibition Royal Marines Commander credited with winning the 1982 land war, Major General Julian Thompson, came face to face with a picture which brought back dramatic memories for him - and promptly bought it. It is a peaceful picture in sunshine of Wireless Ridge, scene of the last battle of the campaign, where Brigadier Thompson, as he was then, received news of the surrender.

He described his feelings to the Newsletter: “It’s very



David McEwen, his wife Sally, and Councillor Richard Cockwell



Above: General Julian Thompson and the painting he bought of Wireless Ridge.

Below: General Thompson with his wife Jane (left) and Councillor Jan Cheek (right)



evocative for me. To me that picture is the last day of the war. It did not look like that then. It was one of those drifting snow, squally, grey, days. But this picture shows how beautiful the Islands can be, bright and blue, in that wonderful light. I lost a lot of men getting to Wireless Ridge. My Brigade fought all the battles except Tumbledown. The very moment the guns fell silent was very important for me. It meant no more men would die. The picture will hang in a prominent place in my home”.

General Thompson added: “I am delighted the way the Islands are so prosperous, and the Islanders can live the way they want. I hope nobody has any idea of changing the way they live by doing any deals behind their backs”. **HWB**

Left: Major-General Paul Stevenson and his wife Ann at the exhibition opening.

UK must resist Argentine sovereignty claim

Sir Rex Hunt's "Falkland Days"

The sacrifice of British lives in liberating the Falklands in 1982 and British money and effort since will have been in vain if ever sovereignty is conceded to Argentina, declares Sir Rex Hunt in his updated book, "My Falkland Days".

The former Governor writes: "If a future British Government decides to hand over the Falkland Islands, it will have to impose a settlement on the Islanders against their wishes and renounce the principle of self-determination. They will never be persuaded that their best interests lie with Argentina".

"We must stand firm on sovereignty", says Sir Rex. "We must never again mislead the Argentines into believing that if they push hard enough, we will concede sovereignty".

Sir Rex emphasizes that thanks to the new prosperity from fishing revenue and wise investment of reserves, the Falklands are financially independent, except for defence, and the Islanders have pledged to pay for that as well, if oil is found in commercial quantities.

Self-confidence permeates population

Returning to the Falklands recently, Sir Rex and Lady Hunt discerned a new feeling of self-confidence permeating through the population. "The Islanders have always been self-reliant... in order to survive. But this new feeling was different. Regardless of Argentina's continuing claim, they face the future with confidence, in the firm belief they can and will be masters of their own destiny. There is still widespread and almost unanimous dislike, fear and distrust of Argentina... After what has happened over the last twenty years, who can blame them?"

The book underlines the great progress that has been made in almost every aspect of Falklands life, not least in education. More Islanders are graduating from British universities and technical colleges, and most encouragingly, returning to the Islands to live and work. The whole population is becoming more qualified.

Invasion shatters tranquil sojourn

The book details his six momentous years as Governor of the Falklands, where he was promised a "tranquil sojourn" after hectic years in Malaysia and in Vietnam he was among the last to be evacuated from Saigon as South Vietnam capitulated and United States forces withdrew.

The tranquillity was shattered by the Argentine invasion. He re-lives the crisis leading to conflict and how he mobilised the Islands' defences to resist overwhelming Argentine forces.

He criticises the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for sometimes keeping him in the dark and quotes again the famous FCO eve-of-invasion telegram, couched, as usual, in cautious diplomatic language: "We have apparently reliable evidence that an Argentine Task Force will gather off Cape Pembroke (at Port Stanley) early tomorrow morning. You will wish to make your dispositions accordingly".

Remarkable rapport; enduring friendships



Sir Rex Hunt - down to earth Governor

Sir Rex and Lady Hunt established remarkable rapport with the Islanders and made enduring friendships. He was no stuffy diplomat, no formal FCO apparatchik remote from the people he governed. All over the islands, he and Mavis stayed in their homes and attended their social events.

He points out that Governors are different from Ambassadors and High Commissioners, in having to wear two hats. They have to represent their home government and put across its policies and also, as head of the colonial government, have a duty to carry out that government's decisions and policies.

Resignation before betraying Islanders

"Conflicts of interest were bound to arise and I had previously determined that, if it should ever reach the stage

where the FCO instructed me to pursue a policy that I believed to be against the best interests of the Falkland Islanders, I should have no alternative but to resign".

He tells his dramatic story with intimate personal insight into the trauma and danger of invasion and occupation, and of life or death decisions, interspersed with great good humour. He walked a unique tightrope with sure-footed diplomatic skill and courage. It is a very personal story told in a very personal way.

Thatcher tribute to Islanders and troops

In a foreword to the book, Baroness Thatcher pays tribute to the Islanders and the Armed Forces. She writes: "The invasion reminded us yet again that aggression must never be allowed to triumph... I rapidly became an expert on every aspect of the Falklands: their history, geography and... way of life".

Visiting the Falklands afterwards, she knew Sir Rex "was back where he wanted to be. The months of exile were not easy for Rex or for Mavis, his steadfast wife. They had been forced to leave behind people they had come to love, not knowing what the future would bring. Their relief and pride to be on the Islands again was self-evident".

She immediately noticed "the warmth of welcome...the genuine hospitality of the Islanders towards all visitors shone through. Eight thousand miles from home, I could see that the spirit of Britain was alive and well".

Forever at rest and not forgotten

On Mount Tumbledown, she began to see what it must have been like for the troops as they yomped and fought their way across this windswept terrain... I thought of those who had not returned but would be forever at rest on these islands or in the waters around them. They had fought to defend a way of life. They had fought so that freedom would prevail. Neither I, nor the people of the Falklands, will ever forget them".

Thanking her, Sir Rex expresses "deep appreciation... for standing by the Falkland Islanders in 1982 and giving them her unwavering support ever since".

"My Falkland Days" by Sir Rex Hunt, CMG, paperback 420 pages, £14.99, published by Politico's, 8 Artillery Row, Westminster, London SW1P 1RZ. Tel: 020 7931 0090; E-mail: publishing@politicos.co.uk ISBN 1842750178 **HWB**

South Georgia — on the web



The world wide web has been recruited as a new weapon to promote and preserve the unique characteristics of the South Atlantic island of South Georgia.

It is an initiative by a group of enthusiasts at Dundee University, led by a former Royal Marines Brigadier David Nicholls (photo left) who served in the Falklands War, and later, as Com-

mander of British Forces in the Falklands, had responsibility for the security of South Georgia.

Code-named "Project Atlantis", the Dundee website became active from 30th March, 2002. You can log on at: www.sgisland.org

The Dundee researchers have created a fascinating website to emphasise the need to protect the environment in

support of the South Georgia and South Sandwich Government's environmental plan. The website features the island's history, wildlife, science, exploration, fishing and tourist industries and management.

Its creators describe it as a valuable educational resource for studying environmental sciences and for anyone else with an interest, whether scientists, historians, visitors, academics or other professionals.

A knowledge section is specifically designed as an educational resource for children of all ages. For young web surfers there are games, a quiz and projects to do.

South Georgia's remoteness, lack of a runway for aircraft, and surrounding seas whipped up by the world's strongest winds, make it a difficult place to reach. Thanks to the new website, you can now sit at home and enjoy its natural beauty, wildlife and heritage from your computer desk. An explorer map allows you to range over the whole island and visit selected sites by viewing 360-degree panoramic scenes.

An art gallery includes a database of South Georgia photographs, including some hitherto unpublished wildlife prints of Frank Hurley, Shackleton's famous photographer. The site uses animation to support text and pictures. **HWB**

Safer future for Albatross

The future of the world's biggest population of black-browed albatross has been safeguarded by the gift of two islands where they breed in the Falklands to a New York based charity, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

The Islands, Steeple Jason and Grand Jason, in the far northwest of the Falklands, have been donated by their previous owners, the Judy and Michael Steinhardt Foundation.

The two islands are home to 210,000 breeding pairs of albatross as well as to several hundred thousand rockhopper penguins and several hundred pair of southern giant petrels.

Falklands Conservation officer Becky Ingram said: "This link to an international organisation such as the Wildlife Conservation Society can only be a positive step forward. The maintenance and enhancement of the seabirds colonies are top priorities".

The Falklands are home to three quarters of the entire global breeding population of black-browed Albatross, one of the South Atlantic's largest and most beautiful seabirds, with a

wingspan of over eight feet.

Their numbers have drastically declined as a result of modern fishing methods, competing for their food and trapping and drowning them on long-line fishing hooks.

The Falklands fishery is one of the best managed in the world with a responsible attitude to seabirds. But the birds fall victim to 'pirate' fishing in the Southern Ocean by illegal, unregulated longliners. **HWB**



Book Launch Pictures

Sir Rex's new book, and Iain Dale's new book, "Memories of the Falklands", see review page 21, were both launched at a party at Politico's, in London. Below is Colonel David Chaundler who took over 2-Para after Colonel Jones was killed and General Julian Thompson. On the right is photographer, Leo Kennedy, Sir Rex and Miss Sukey Cameron



The History of the Falkland Islands - Mary Cawkell, published by Anthony Nelson, PO Box 9, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1BY. Hardback, 189 pages with foreword by Sir Rex Hunt, CMG. ISBN 0904614 55 7, price £25.

Mary Cawkell's last and best book, published just a few months after her death is the culmination of her lifelong interest in the Falklands. It covers her work from the discovery of the Islands to the 1982 war - and provides a most concise account of that too. David Taylor, a former Falklands Chief Executive, wrote the last two chapters dealing with the enormous changes after the 1982 war, that Mary was not so well informed about. This covers events up to the Joint Statement in July 1999 when Argentines were re-admitted to the Islands, and peace can be said to have finally returned to the area.

In his foreword, Sir Rex zeroes in on the most valuable contribution Mary's book makes: the virtual demolition of the Argentine myth that the British re-occupation of the Falklands in 1832/33 was an unjustified act. She documents the American involvement in this - and their rejection of Argentine pretensions there - which is little known nowadays. It was their intervention that finally precipitated Britain's long delayed decision to implement its claim. She records how Britain thought at the time. She also records that Louis Vernet, the man responsible for the settlement in the Falklands then, that is now the basis for the Argentine claim, wanted British protection for it. See: "**Louis Vernet**" below.

Mary provides a damning account of the period from 1965 to the war with the Foreign Office and British politicians getting the criticism they richly deserve. The full horror of this period is gradually coming out in the Public Records Office, which was not available when Mary documented this period. But she describes the results of this in the Islands.

Sadly, the list of "Argentine Governors of Port Soledad", although taken from one of Mary's earlier books, was added during publication. Mary knew by the end that this was quite erroneous. Nevertheless, Mary's book is a must to anyone interested in the sovereignty dispute. So far, it is the best history of the Falklands there is.

PJP

Louis Vernet

Mary Cawkell (see above) does not perhaps give Louis Vernet's approaches to Britain quite the attention they deserve.

Her source was Professor Ricardo Caillet-Bois' book "*Las Islas Malvinas*", which is the best Argentine history of the Falklands, written in the 1930's when the Falklands dispute was all but forgotten in Argentina. He records that Vernet, the man responsible for the settlement at Port Louis, in effect, invited Britain to implement its long-standing claim to the Islands!

Caillet-Bois realised the significance of this, as it meant that Britain implemented its claim and re-occupied the Falklands with the consent of the man many Argentines now claim to have been their first "governor" (although he was not this). Clearly, this seriously undermines Argentina's present claim.

The most telling passage is on page 305 where Caillet-Bois records Woodbine Parish, British Consul in Buenos Aires, writing to the Foreign Office after talking to Vernet in 1829:

"He (Vernet) would feel very satisfied if the Government of Her Majesty were to take the establishment founded under its protection".

Then on page 316 Caillet-Bois records the letter written to his MP in 1831 by Captain William Langdon, who had bought land in the Falklands from Vernet:

"... and from a conversation I had with Mr. Vernet on the

Mrs Anne Cameron

We regret to record the death of Mrs Anne Cameron, from one of the Falklands best-known families. She died at her home in Ireland in January, aged 87. Though she and her husband retired to Ireland in 1965, she remained devoted to the Falklands where she had many friends.



She was only six when her father, Herbert Henniker Heaton, was appointed Colonial Secretary in the Falklands in 1921. Only the next year, her mother, Phoebe, died tragically young in childbirth and is buried in Stanley cemetery.

After further postings in Bermuda and Cyprus, her father returned to the Falklands as Governor in 1935.

After her marriage to Norman Keith Cameron in 1945, they settled at Port San Carlos where their four children were born, Jane, (who is the Falklands Archivist), Alastair (killed in a road accident when he was Director of Fisheries), Donald, and Sukey (the Falklands Government Representative in London).

When Norman Cameron died in 1971, Anne Cameron succeeded him as Managing Director of Port San Carlos Limited until the farm was sold in 1989. She last visited the Islands in 1999.

She was a long-standing member of the UK Falkland Islands Committee and after 1982 supported the Association.

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subject I am authorised to say that there would be no objection whatsoever to its occupation by the British Government as long as there were no interference with private property".

With this Vernet, once again, committed an indiscretion that would not have gone unnoticed by those interested and which would contribute to the decision taken by the London cabinet.

It worth noting that the Argentine Government tried unsuccessfully to bribe Islanders to accept Argentine sovereignty several years ago - thus legitimizing the idea that Islanders have the right to transfer sovereignty. Yet the man around whom they had built much of their own claim wanted British sovereignty himself - without any inducement at all.

PJP

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 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 minimum £50, Corporate Sponsorship £500).

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Date Telephone

Please return to: Falkland Islands Association, Douglas House, 16 - 18 Douglas St, London, SW1P 4PB. Applicants who do not wish to cut this form from a Newsletter are invited to use a xerox of it. Members are requested not to use this form for membership renewals.

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Islander, and former Chief of Police, Mr. Terry Peck, photographed in 1982 when he escaped from the Argentine occupation of Stanley to serve with 3-Para on Mount Longdon and elsewhere.