



FALKLAND ISLANDS NEWSLETTER

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NO TIME TO RELAX

There is a new Government in Argentina – but no new dawn. We hear the same old rhetoric, repeating the same unjustified and anachronistic claim to the Falklands, categorically rejected by the people of the Islands and by the British Government.

Self-determination is as much a right of Falkland Islanders as it is of the Argentines, who enjoy democracy and free choice largely thanks to Britain's defeat of Galtieri's invaders in 1982. Just as Argentines were free to choose President Kirchner, so the Islanders have the choice to remain British.

Why should they change? The Falklands prosper as never before. Fishing revenue rose to £26.4 million last year. Agriculture continues to diversify. Embryo transfer will soon revolutionise the Islands' beef bloodlines. Wildlife impresses tourists and cruise ship visitors. The search for offshore oil goes on. Young Islanders excel academically. Sportsmen have done well in the Islands Games. It is a vibrant community.

Who would want to sacrifice this to join a nation that is corrupt, crime-ridden and bankrupt? Argentina has

the biggest foreign debt in history, in thrall to a sceptical and divided International Monetary Fund forced to launch the largest debt-rescue ever recorded.

President Kirchner has won praise for reversing the amnesties that protected the murderers of tens of thousands of Argentines during the military dictatorship. This is an act of courage, but also an act of revenge. He is associated with the left-wing of the Peronist party and *Montonero* guerrillas who provoked the military and suffered as a result in Argentina's "Dirty War". He is also from the town of Rio Gallegos, in the front-line in 1982, where Argentina's defeat still rankles.

President Kirchner could enhance his statesmanship by dropping the discredited sovereignty claim. Yet he has intensified this, supported by renewed activity from Argentina's lobby in Britain.

Supporters of the Islanders and of democracy must resist vigorously. The Falkland Islands Association is proud to be in the forefront, emboldened by its increasing membership - which we ask you to join. Evil is apt to triumph when good men do nothing.



Three young Islanders, Zoran Zuvic-Bulic, Matthew Eccles and Sean Moffatt at the Liberation Monument in Stanley after a tough 48-hour yomp over the Liberation Day weekend, during which they visited all the peaks around Stanley captured by British troops in 1982. They raised £1,000 for SAMA '82. See the report on page 20. *RAF Tribute Edition.*

Governor Howard Pearce at the Vigo Fishing Conference

Governor Howard Pearce attended the World Fishing Exhibition (WFE) Vigo 2003 during September 2003, an event that exceeded its organisers wildest expectations. Sr Alfonso Paz Andrade, the President of the Exhibition Executive Committee, stated that business volume handled during the WFE was more than €384 million.

The exhibition, which lasted five days, is the most important in the world for fishing machinery and aquaculture, and was attended by more than 70,000 professionals involved in fishing. It was made even more important by the presence of 26 fisheries ministers from all over the world at the International Minister of Fisheries Conference that coincided with it.

Groups attended from Russia, Taiwan, China, New Zealand, Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, and the Falklands among others. Governor Pearce gave a press conference in order to update the media on the changes to be implemented in connection with the fishing management of the Islands. He most of all wanted to establish direct contact with the Galician and Spanish companies that operate in Falklands waters.

MercoPress



Governor Howard Pearce addresses the press at the World Fishing Exhibition. On the left is Richard Sawle, of Pesquera Polar; on the right a translator.

Photograph by FIS/MercoPress

Oil & Agriculture roles combined

A decision to amalgamate the two posts of Director of Mineral Resources and of Agriculture starting in January is expected to produce big administrative savings. The double role is taken on by **Mrs Phyllis Rendell** (pictured on the right) who has been the Director of Mineral Resources since that post was created in 1996 and was the Director of Education before that.

The Director of Agriculture, **Peter Johnston**, is returning to Australia at the end of his contract in December 2003. The amalgamation is the first stage of a review of senior civil service management.

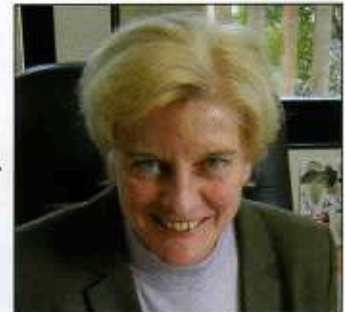
Congratulating Mrs Rendell on her appointment, **Councillor Mike Summers**, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee said that combining the two departments does not signify any reduction in the Falkland

Islands Government's commitment to agriculture or the continued exploration of minerals.

"There are no plans to reduce the project budgets. It enables us to achieve a reduction in public spending by means of efficiency improvements".

Tributes were paid to Peter Johnston for doing an excellent job in implementing a strategy for improving farm incomes and also enhancing the impact of agriculture on the Falkland Islands economy.

HWB



Phyllis Rendell, who combines the posts of Mineral Resources and Agriculture Director.

Chairman of Fisheries Committee commends the *Dorada*

The rôle played by the *Dorada* in the arrest of the Uruguayan poaching vessel *Viarsa 1* has been praised by Councillor Cockwell, as Chairman of the Fisheries Committee. "It was very good that we were able to help in this process", he said. "It does the Falkland Islands Fisheries Protection no harm whatsoever to be seen in such a high profile exercise. I was very pleased we were able to be involved and it shows that we are not prepared to allow this sort of thing to go on".

The longliner *Viarsa 1* had been pursued for some ten days across the Southern Ocean by the fisheries protection vessels of several countries, including Australia and South Africa. It has been found to contain a valuable catch of toothfish, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. Its detection in Australian waters and subsequent pursuit and capture attracted worldwide publicity. It was escorted to Australia for prosecution in the courts. Uruguay, as well as Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom support the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), responsible for the allocation of fishing quotas in Antarctic waters including the very valuable and much poached toothfish.



The Falklands Fisheries Protection Vessel *Dorada* pursues the Uruguayan poacher *Viarsa 1*.

Photograph: Australian Customs

Sigma contract goes ahead

In other fishing news, Sigma Marine Ltd has recently been awarded a three-year contract for the operation of a fishery patrol vessel, which will cost £3,800 per day and will include four *en-suite* cabins, as required by the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI), which has agreed to hire the vessel for the whole of a third year in the vent that the Falkland Islands Government does not require it then.

We extend our condolences to Lady Thatcher on her sad loss

In many tributes to Sir Denis Thatcher after his death, he was praised for his great support for the Falkland Islands. On behalf of members of the Falkland Islands Association, the Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, sent a message of condolence to Baroness Thatcher in which he wrote: "I send you our most sympathetic feelings on the death of Sir Denis. We shall always remember him for the unwavering support he gave you during the Falklands War in 1982. For those of us who were fortunate to have met him, we shall also remember him as the perfect gentleman, whose company we always enjoyed". Sir Rex signed off his letter with "most sincere condolences and warmest regards".

Lady Thatcher recently became the first and only Patron of the Falkland Islands Association, having expressed her wish to be associated with the organisation during last year's ceremonies marking the twentieth anniversary of the war.

In a television interview with his journalist daughter, Carol Thatcher, screened after his death, Sir Denis recalled the night of the invasion. "When I arrived back into Downing Street" he said, "I won't say it was panic stations, but everybody was running around. I was not too sure where the Falklands were and I did not want to make a bloody fool of myself... But I soon discovered, nor did anyone else".

The Head of the Royal Navy, the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, recalls that Margaret Thatcher once asked him whether the Task Force could reach the Falklands in three days. "No", Admiral Leach told her.



The late and greatly loved Sir Denis Thatcher, beside Lady Thatcher.

"Three weeks. The distance is 8,000 nautical miles".

Lady Thatcher has said that nothing remains more vividly in her mind than the eleven weeks when Britain fought and won the Falklands War.

In the retrospective television programme, entitled "Married to Maggie", both she and Sir Denis reminisced affectionately about their long partnership and recalled the challenges she faced in her long political life. Lady Thatcher, now left rather lonely by his death, said how much he meant to her and the important part their marriage and his support during her premiership. **HWB**

The British Antarctic Survey says farewell to a veteran captain

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) has at long last said a fond goodbye to its veteran Antarctic captain, Stuart Lawrence, after a series of farewell parties marking his 33 annual voyages to the Antarctic, and 42 years at sea.

The Director of BAS, Professor Chris Rapley, presented 59-year-old Captain Lawrence with a framed map at the BAS summer barbecue where his many colleagues and friends wished him well in his retirement in his new home in Cornwall. Sadly his wife Sue, from whom he was parted for several months each year, died only four months before his retirement.

Captain Lawrence studied at the HMS Conway Sea School when only 13 and spent his seventeenth birthday as a seagoing cadet with Canadian Pacific Steamships.

The call of the Antarctic

He was about to join the Royal National Lifeboat Institution but sailed instead to the Antarctic, first on two voyages on the John Biscoe, then on the Bransfield, and found himself commanding the vessel when the captain fell ill and the chief officer broke his ankle.

He assumed permanent command of the Bransfield in 1974, sailing every year to the most southerly BAS station, Halley, repeatedly facing the challenge of the frozen Weddell Sea.

Only a few days before the 1982 Argentine invasion, he hosted a reception aboard in Stanley harbour, attended by Argentine LADE staff. He sailed on March 31st and learned of the invasion from Patrick Watts' broadcasts when midway between the Falklands and Tierra del Fuego. He was in a position to alert the British Antarctic Survey headquarters back in Britain so they could inform the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Alcohol quelled invasion mutiny!

He was faced with the threat of a mutiny by some of his crew whose reaction to the invasion was to advocate sailing back to the Falklands and sinking the Bransfield in the approach to Stanley Harbour. He quelled the mutiny by plying them with alcohol until they were too drunk to carry out their plan.

Captain Lawrence was awarded the Polar Medal in 1983 and the MBE in 1998, and also has a Meteorological Office Award.

He took command of the newest BAS vessel, RRS Ernest Shackleton, in 1999, leaving her for the last time in April when he enjoyed a party with his Falklands friends in Stanley appropriately on the anniversary of the Argentine invasion. He vows to return to the Falklands because, he says, he has had such marvellous experiences and the Falklands are a such a place.



Sir Rex Hunt and Mavis, with Captain Stuart Lawrence, at Stuart's party on board the RRS James Clark Ross in the Port of Grimsby.

Photograph: Jo Middleton

Falklands flies the flag at the Royal Show, for 5th year running

The Falkland Islands' stand at this year's Royal Show (which was held from June 29th to July 2nd) showed off Falklands agricultural diversification, the new machine-washable Falklands wool, and promoted life in the Islands today and their attractions as a specialist holiday destination.

Joining FIG Representative Sukey Cameron and Debbie Ford on the Falklands stand was Charlene Rowland, the Islands' Organic Inspector. She promoted organic advancement in the Islands. Since this initiative was launched two years ago, eight farms have converted to EU-approved organic farming methods with a further six in the pipeline.

On display was the new 100% pure, machine washable Falklands Wool from A&E Knitwear, one of the longest-standing knitwear businesses in the Islands. This new line, launched in 2003, is used for a range of garments in the Islands, all hand-made by framing on flat knitting machines and also finished by hand. A&E Falkland Knitwear products can be purchased over the internet (www.falklandknitwear.com).

The Islands average annual wool clip is about 2,500 tonnes (greasy) with an average fibre diameter of 27 micron. There is high demand from around the world, but the wool is largely sold through wholesalers in the United Kingdom. Sheep breeds are predominantly Polwarth and Corriedale.

While wool remains the agricultural mainstay, more farms are developing meat lines following the EU's approval of the Sand Bay abattoir in January 2003, permitting exports for the first time. The vast majority of the first season's total production has been sold to the UK, with a proportion of the meat also being sold into the domestic market for the local pop-



Falkland Islands Representative Sukey Cameron, at the Royal Show with Bill Wiggin MP, the Shadow DEFRA Minister.
Photograph by Debs Ford.

ulation and also to supply fishing vessels.

As a direct result of the EU licence, some supplies of meat were also sold, for the first time, to visiting cruise liners – with fresh Falkland Islands' lamb appearing on the menus in a number of cruise ship restaurants as they sailed away from Stanley to their next destination.

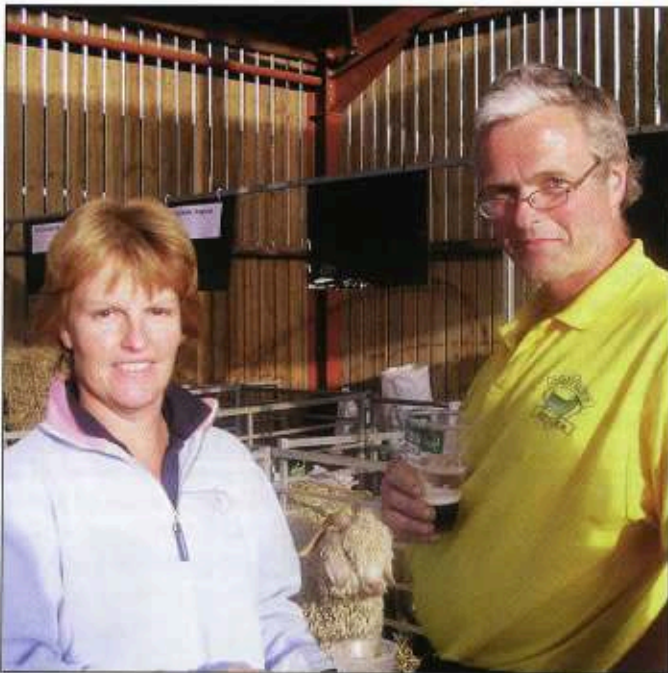
The Agriculture Department works in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, supported by the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust on projects to improve pasture and restore tussac grass, develop tree shelter belts, natural fertilisers and to explore feasibility of an indigenous seaweed industry.

Embryo transfer improves the quality of Falklands beef

With the new abattoir now in operation, steps are being taken to improve Falklands beef bloodlines. Under the direction of Beef Adviser Doug Martin, embryo transfer (ET) has already resulted in twelve Aberdeen Angus and seven Hereford heifers, and eight Angus and nine Hereford bulls. This will soon mean enough beef to meet all local demand and will leave a small surplus for export. Twelve farms are taking part in the programme.

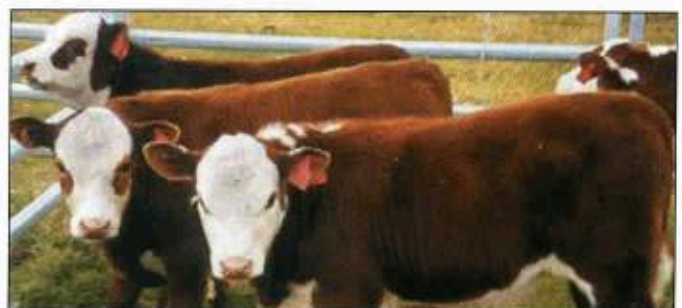
Artificial insemination will also be used for those cows not suitable for embryo transfer, the semen coming from New Zealand and Australia. Fifteen farms are taking part in this programme.

Bryan Charleston brought the embryos from Britain and Rob Yelland brought the semen from Australia, in both cases the Falklands were lucky to have the services of these gentlemen just for the cost of the airfare.



Former Falklands vet Stephen Whitley and his wife Jenny, at the Royal Show. With their three children, Kirsten, Lucy and Alice, they run a 128-acre organic farm, at Stockland, Honiton, Devon, with cattle, sheep, and Angora goats from which they produce their famous 200 types of Corrymoor socks, sent to more than 20 countries, with a customer base of 20,000 names. Visitors are welcome to Corrymoor Farm's open weekend, November 15th-16th, from 1000 to 1600. [Telephone/fax: 01404-861 245; E-mail: socks@corrymoor.com].

Photograph by Debs Ford



Hereford calves at Shallow Harbour, West Falkland.

IMF rescues Argentina

Argentina has reached agreement with the International Monetary Fund allowing it to defer some 12 billion dollars in debt repayments to the IMF due over the next three years. It has also received major new credits from the IMF and World Bank. This is the biggest IMF rescue package ever – for the biggest debt default in history!

The Argentine and World press reported the IMF to have been divided over whether Argentina had fulfilled the criteria for more aid. It said that European members of the IMF were unconvinced of this, while the US supported the aid package to help the new Kirchner régime and avoid more economic trouble in Argentina at a time when Brazil is in great economic difficulties too.

94 Billion in Defaulted Bonds

Argentina is now negotiating with holders of some 94 billion dollars worth of its bonds that are in default. Argentina hopes to reach an agreement with the holders that would oblige them to forego 75% of the face value of their bonds. Some bond holders, particularly foreign ones, are planning to challenge this settlement with lawsuits. Some of the bonds are held by the pensions board in Argentina itself, and the Argentine Government is reported to be planning to allow the board to forego only 30% of the value of its bonds, in order to avoid a dramatic decline in some Argentine pensions.

Argentina has about 33 million people. So its debts just to these bond holders amount to \$2,857 per head.

Kirchner repeals the amnesties

The new Kirchner Government has repealed the two amnesty laws *Punto Final* (Final Stop) and *Obediencia Debida* (Due Obedience). This now opens the way for the prosecution of the military involved in the kidnap, torture and murder of tens of thousands of Argentines, many of whom were totally innocent, during Argentina's "Dirty War" from 1976 to 1983. Kirchner is also pressuring the Supreme Court to declare these laws unconstitutional – and tailoring the make-up of the Court itself by impeaching judges he doesn't like.

Punto Final was passed under military pressure by the Alfonsín Government. It set a deadline, stopping all prosecutions for crimes committed during the military dictatorship. *Obediencia Debida* was then passed a few months later so that those already tried or charged before the deadline could use the defence that they were only obeying orders. Later, President Meném granted pardons in 1989 and 1990 freeing those who had been convicted despite these formal amnesties. The Kirchner government would like these pardons repealed, too.

The Kirchner régime has links with the *Montonero* guerrillas who so provoked the military before and during the Junta's "Dirty War". So it may be seeking personal vengeance, as well as justice. Thus the Foreign Minister, Rafael Bielsa, was named as a *Montonero* by Argentine magazine *Vein ti Tres*.

Before the repeal of the amnesties, Argentine "Dirty War" military criminal, Ricardo Cavallo, discovered in Mexico, was extradited to Spain by Judge Garzón, who was responsible for the arrest of General Pinochet in Britain. But now, with the amnesties repealed, there will be no more extraditions to foreign jurisdictions and Cavallo may be returned to Argentina.

However, France continues to press for the extradition of Alfredo Astiz, who has been convicted in France of the murder of two French nuns. He was the Argentine commander in South Georgia during the 1982 war.

Buenos Aires' Falklands policy

The latest Argentine President, Nestor Kirchner, has made it clear that his Government will not talk to Falkland Islanders, but will continue the campaign for sovereignty discussions with Britain.

Mr. Kirchner comes from Rio Gallegos in Patagonia, which was in the front line in the 1982 war. Feelings still run high there over the Falklands, and did so over other territorial disputes in the area – such as the Continental Icefields dispute with Chile and the Beagle Channel dispute. That nearly came to war with Chile in 1978. President Kirchner has also expressed the view that Falklands fishing harms Argentina – which the *Newsletter* thinks may be because it competes with the growing fishing industry in his own Province, Santa Cruz, which is located directly opposite the Falklands.

Ironically, the new Argentine Ambassador to Britain, Federico Mirre, in an interview with the Argentine press, appeared to look back nostalgically to the period in the 1970s when there was communication with the Islands. He appears to think that communication could advance Argentina's claim. As a young journalist Sr. Mirre visited the Falklands in the 1960s.

Covets 'likely' Falklands oil

Falklands oil has to be approached as "likely" and therefore should be included in, "... the permanent and priority agenda of our sovereignty rights over the Islands," wrote Jorge Lapeña, a former Argentine Energy Secretary, in the Argentine newspaper *Clarín*, last July.

Mr Lapeña pointed out that the sedimentary basins surrounding the Falklands are among the few remaining unexplored provinces left in the world and, given their area and thickness, have a great hydrocarbons potential for many years to come.

In an article entitled "*Malvinas: Let's look after the oil*", Mr. Lapeña made comments similar to several from the new Kirchner administration about Falklands fishing. These have taken the form of assertions that Falklands fishing is taking income away from Argentina – and has yielded enviable standards of living for the Islanders that contrast disturbingly with Argentina's. In fact, Argentina largely ignored its fishing resources until 1992, when it embarked, all of a sudden, on what it called the "Squid War" and began issuing licences at half the going rate, in order to harm the Falklands. It now issues far more licences than the Falklands do.

Mr Lapeña said that the Falklands' designated area for hydrocarbon operations covers a region of 400,000 sq km, which far exceeds the area of the Islands and is 50% more than the entire area of the North Sea oil basin. Argentina's most productive oil basin, extending over three provinces, has only 124,000 sq km.

Mr Lapeña speculated that if any of the Falklands oil licensees were successful, and given the 50% share that would belong to the Falklands Government, a 100-million cubic metres oil deposit could represent income of over 7.5 billion US dollars.

Responding to Mr Lapeña's article, Councillor John Birmingham said: "It's interesting, because previously Argentine authorities would not accept the possibility of finding oil in our area. This is just confirming what we already know". Councillor Stephen Luxton, who holds the Portfolio for Mineral Resources, commented, "It's good news that the Argentines share our optimism for the presence of hydrocarbons in Falkland Islands waters, but the main deposits falling within Falkland Islands jurisdiction are nothing to do with them".

The Governor's Interview

Co-operation is 'vital for mutual benefit'

Queries over Kirchner's Falklands policy

The importance of pragmatic co-operation with Argentina on crucial issues such as fisheries and conservation of valuable fish stocks has been emphasised by the new Governor of the Falkland Islands, Mr. Howard Pearce.

In an exclusive interview with the *Newsletter* during a visit to London, Mr. Pearce was asked for his reaction to what appears to be a hardening of attitude by President Nestor Kirchner's new Argentine Government in intensifying its claim to sovereignty of the Falklands and apparent reversal of previous policy of having direct contact with the Falklands Government and Islanders.

Mr. Pearce told the *Newsletter*: "We have to see what this means in practice. The Falkland Islands are ready to co-operate with Argentina where there is a mutual interest in doing so". He emphasised that "this must be done on the basis that the Falkland Islands remain British, that the Islanders are committed to remaining British, and the British Government is firmly committed to self-determination for the Islands...."

"As the Argentine Government settles into office, we shall have to see how it is prepared to address the areas where there is a mutual interest in co-operation, including fishing, oil, communications and other issues involving international bodies. Time will tell how the Argentine Government's policy develops. We very much hope that they will recognise there is an interest on both sides in engaging in good practical co-operation in the region in which we exist".

Real achievements in fisheries collaboration

Mr. Pearce stressed the special importance of practical co-operation in fisheries, which is vital to sustaining the Falkland Islands economy, its development and prosperity. It is an issue that straddles national boundaries and policies.

He said: "It is an extremely important issue for pragmatic co-operation because fish living in the South Atlantic move around in international waters, in Falklands waters and Argentine waters. We have a mutual interest in the proper management of those fisheries and in their conservation".

He was optimistic of continuing progress in the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission, set up several years ago by mutual consent. "It is extremely important for the Falkland Islands and Argentina that this practical co-operation should continue and all the indications are that the new Argentine Government is prepared to continue that co-operation. At the most recent meeting of the Commission we were able to get down to some really useful work. From that point of view, I am reasonably encouraged. We have carried out research and we have worked together on measures to conserve fish stocks. [Note: *The Falklands fisheries vessel, Dorada, was used for the first time last year in a joint research programme with Argentina, and had several Argentine scientists on board*].

High Seas fisheries accord needed

"We would like to have seen that co-operation become closer and more information exchanged, with more work to be done in particular on southern blue whiting, an important species, as well as on illex squid, where we have been working quite well together".

"We are also interested in taking progress forward in establishing some kind of high seas fisheries régime.



Harold Briley interviewing the Governor of the Falkland Islands, Mr Howard Pearce, during a recent visit to London.

That would obviously engage all those other countries with vessels that fish in the region. There is a lot of work to be done. But I would accentuate the positive".

"We have made real achievements in the past and I hope we can build on those to expand the area of co-operation in the future. I must emphasise the point that it is in the interest of both the Falkland Islands and Argentina that this co-operation should take place. Only by working together can we ensure that these vital fisheries stocks are properly managed in the interest of both the Falkland Islands and Argentina and of the wider world community".

"The indications we have in the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission is that Argentine scientists and those who manage the fisheries are concerned about, and willing to work with us, on conservation issues".

Radical Falklands fisheries overhaul

The Falkland Islands already enjoys an international reputation for one of the best managed fisheries in the world, but is engaged on a major reappraisal and re-structure of fisheries management headed by Councillor Richard Cockwell as Chairman of the Falklands Fisheries Committee.

The Governor praised Councillor Cockwell for doing "a splendid job on a highly complex issue in re-structuring the fisheries management process".

The Governor said: "We have taken some important decisions on how to manage fisheries in Falklands waters and there is still a lot of work to be done. By the end of this year or early next year, I am confident we will get the structure and much of the detail in place for what is a key factor in our economy. The purpose is to enable us to maintain an extremely effective conservation régime to ensure that the fisheries – involving several different species – are all properly managed in a sustainable manner to enable the fisheries and its economic benefit to the Falkland Islands to expand".

Note: *Councillor Cockwell's review has produced three reports – on development of marine farming, aquaculture, on port infrastructure, and a review of licensing and fisheries management advocating replacement of short-term licences by long-term, transferable property rights in the fishery.*

Zero tolerance for illegal fishing poachers

The Governor welcomed the help given by the Falklands fisheries protection ship, *Dorada*, to Australia's fisheries protection service in arresting an illegal Uruguayan toothfish trawler, *Viarsa 1*, after one of the longest ever chases in fishing history — lasting three weeks and over 4,500 miles through rough seas, high winds and pack ice in the South Atlantic.

Mr. Pearce declared: "It is extremely important for both the Falkland Islands and South Georgia [of which he is Commissioner] that we demonstrate we are not prepared to countenance poaching. Anyone found poaching will be caught and punished. We hope that those engaged in this kind of activity will realise it is not worth their while. We are strongly committed to ensuring that illegal fishing does not take place in our waters".

Call for oil co-operation not confrontation

Recalling that an Anglo-Argentine agreement on offshore oil co-operation agreement has been in force for several years, Mr. Pearce declared: "There is a special co-operation area where the Falklands and Argentine continental shelf median lines meet. I hope that the Argentine Government will look at this issue again and reach the conclusion that there is mutual interest in co-operation rather than confrontation. In the meantime the Falkland Islands Government is keen to encourage companies to take a serious interest in what is a very promising area geologically, for oil potential. A number of companies have a long term interest in the area. Several trial wells were drilled in 1998, and we hope further work will take place. Companies are looking at information already available and considering whether the time has come to invest more in what is for the whole region a very important activity".

Note: Several companies – Desire Petroleum, Argos Evergreen and Talisman Energy operate licences in the North Falkland Basin. In the undrilled South Falkland Basin, ten open-door production licences were awarded last year to the Australian-led Falklands Hydrocarbon Consortium. Argentina disputes Falklands oil exploration activity over different interpretation of the 1997 Anglo-Argentine agreement.

Praise for Kirchner's 'Dirty War' Policy

For a Falklands Governor, Mr. Pearce has unique experience of life in Argentina, as a diplomat in the British Embassy in Buenos Aires in the worst period of military rule in the 1970s when thousands of Argentine citizens went missing — kidnapped, tortured and murdered.

Mr. Pearce recalled that 1976 to 1983 was a deeply traumatic time for Argentina and praised President Kirchner's brave policies in trying at long last to bring to justice and punish the guilty. "How this should be handled is very much a matter for the Argentines", the Governor said. "Twenty years later there are still deep wounds in Argentine society. Anybody who is concerned that those who were guilty in Argentina and other parts of the world of appalling abuses of human rights would get away scot-free, will welcome the Argentine Government's courageous decision to address this issue once again. I recognise how difficult it is for Argentine society. From the opinion polls there seems to be very strong support for the courageous approach taken by President Kirchner and his colleagues".

Happy Governor praises friendly Falklands

On a personal note, Mr. Pearce said he was very happy in his unique post as Governor. "I am enjoying myself immensely", he told the *Newsletter*. "It is an absolutely fascinating job, involving great variety with the widest range of issues and challenges I have faced in a long and varied diplomatic career. The Falkland Islands are fascinating and offer an exceptionally high quality of life. It is a very warm, hospitable, welcoming community. It is a small community, but it is also a country with a government that has to deal with the range of issues and provide the services which any country has to provide, if on a much smaller scale. It is the most wonderful job. I am having a great time".

HWB

Note: In his first annual address to the Legislative Council on the "State of the Nation", Mr. Pearce praised the Legislative and Executive Councils for all they had done for the Falklands and expressed his thanks to the people of the Falklands who, he said, "make these Islands really special".

Good news for Falklands oil and tourism

With conditions in the international oil industry picking up, the Falklands ideally would wish to see another seismic exploration phase, similar to that of 1998 which would lead to either a discovery or more understanding, says Director of Mineral Resources, Phyllis Rendell.

Returning from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists conference in Barcelona, Spain, attended by the larger companies from Europe, the United States and Australia, Mrs Rendell said: "Senior Executives are re-visiting all high risk areas to review potential for exploration. The attitude is very much 'don't rule anything out'. It was all very encouraging and we now have lots of work to do following up leads and with visits to company headquarters".

The last exploration phase gave a big boost to the Falklands economy, bringing in £1.3 million in tax for the Falklands Government and around £10 million in total flowed through the economy.

Tourism Latin America

At least 21 tourism buyer companies attending the Travel Mart Latin America conference in Ecuador have included the Falkland Islands in their list of prospective holiday destinations. Travel Mart Latin America brings together representatives of tourism destinations throughout Latin America with specialist tour operators from around the world, making it the most important marketing opportunity of the year for Falklands tourism. The Director of Tourism John Fowler said:

"To our great surprise we had a specific mention by 21 com-

panies from USA, Mexico, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Australia and New Zealand, and that's not including those companies which simply put 'region wide'. For a tiny country like the Falklands competing in a global market, such increased presence is impressive."

The Falklands were also represented in Ecuador by Debbie Ford of Falkland Tourism, Jenny Forrest of International Tours and Jenny Luxton of Stanley Services Travel.



Mrs Phyllis Rendell and Jim Webb, of Global Petroleum, at the Falkland Islands' stand at the Barcelona conference.

Falklands takes 16th place in Medals Table



Photograph: Fran Biggs

Despite having the third smallest population of the 23 competing islands, the Falkland Islands finished 16th in the final medal table at the 10th NatWest Island Games in Guernsey.

Little Sark, with a population of just 530, finished 17th after an excellent two silver medals in clay pigeon shooting, while the Orkney Islands, pop. 18,000, also finished below the Falklands with the solitary bronze medal and in 18th place. Five islands, Alderney, Froya & Hitra (Norwegian islands), St Helena and surprisingly Prince Edward Island (population 140,000) failed to pick up a medal at all.

Shooting Success

The silver and two bronze medals, won in shooting, was the best result for the Falklands since the 1999 Games in Gotland. Graham Didlick won the silver medal in the Police Pistol 1 competition, and bronze in the NPA Service Pistol B. This makes him the most successful com-

petitor since the Falklands first took part in the games in 1993, with an impressive total of eleven; one gold, four silver, and six bronze.

The second pistol shooter, Alun Davies, found the competition, and a borrowed pistol, rather tough going.

Gareth Goodwin and Chris McCallum maintained the Falklands excellent reputation in full-bore rifle shooting, winning a well-deserved bronze in the Queens Pairs competition, 36 points above the next pair from the Isle of Wight.

Gareth finished a creditable 6th in the Individual Shoot with a score of 381, while Chris was 7th on 377.

In addition to these three medals, the Falklands also won a Gold certificate, through Saul Pitaluga in the ISSF Automatic Ball Trap Clay Pigeon event. The 'Small Islands Certificates' were introduced at the 2001 Games and involve the six islands with populations of 10,000 or less (Alderney, Sark, Froya, Hitra, St Helena and the Falklands), with gold, silver and bronze certifi-



Above: Gareth Goodwin and Chris McCallum collect their Bronze. Left: Pistol marksman Graham Didlick displays his medals.



Above: Saul Pitaluga takes aim on the clay pigeon range. Right: The Men's Golf Team. Lower picture, top right: David Fyfe in the Half-Marathon. Lower right: Roxanne Morrison on the track All Photographs on this page are by Ted Clapp



cates being awarded to the highest placed 'Small Islands' competitor, provided that three or more of the islands entered in the respective discipline.

Saul's score of 101, twelfth in a field of 27 shooters, earned him the gold certificate with Richard Grubb of Sark, just 3 points behind, getting the silver.

Golf, Swimming, Badminton

Glenn Ross demolished the Falklands golf records. His 322 four round total (39th position from a field of 50) was 27 strokes better than the previous record of 349 held jointly by Robert Titterington and Roy Smith. Glenn also lowered the one round score, previously 82, with a 77 on the first day of competition, and trimmed this to 76 the next day. However, Roy Smith equalled this in his second round too. So these two now hold the new record jointly. Roy finished in 49th position with his 348. Kevin Clapp in 47th position with 339, bettered the old record by 10 strokes.

Chris Clarke's 357 left him in 50th place overall. He notably recorded two birdies in his 3rd round score of 87.

Sharon Marsh completed the tricky La Grande Mare & L'Anresse golf courses with a four round total of 396 and 39th position, just one stroke more than her total of 395 in the Isle of Man Games of 2001.

The competition and the thrilling pool atmosphere, inspired young swimmers Donna Triggs and Kerri Ross to achieve personal best achievements in all nine events which they entered.

Kerri won her heat in the 50m Breaststroke in a time of 50.23 seconds, while Donna finished second in her heat of the 100m Freestyle with a time of 1:13.58.

The Badminton team of Doug Clark, Ian France, Trudi Clarke, Lyn Brownlee & Nikki Luxton produced the best ever overall Games performance. They narrowly lost 3-2 to Bermuda in a play-off match for losing group teams. Doug won 2 singles matches in the group rounds against Orkney and Gibraltar, and recorded a first ever Falklands' singles victory in the Open, getting to the second round before losing to an Aland player.

Running competitions

Sarah Allan took 11th place, in a field of seventeen, in the Half-Marathon. Her time of 1hr 36.16mins bettered her previous Games best performance by approximately six minutes. Her good performance won her the Chairman's 'Performance of Merit' medal.



Anne Johnson's persistent knee injury compelled her to pull-out after 3 miles.

David Fyfe (Left) settled for 26th position, with a time of 1hr 34.03 in the Mens Half-Marathon. He experienced a gruelling week, also running in the 10,000 and 5,000m events.

Sixteen year old Roxanne Morrison savoured her first-ever opportunity to run on a 400m track, and her impressive 6'-03secs in the 1,500m, is a time to build on for the future. Studies permitting, she may now set her sights on the Commonwealth Youth Championships in Australia next year.

Seventeen year old Kyle Biggs tackled both the 400 and 800m events. Aiming to go under one minute in the 400m he gamely produced a fast finish to record a time of 59.44. He completed the two-lap event in 2.20.6, which was incidentally an identical time to that recorded by Olympic gold medallist

heptathlete Denise Lewis in Lausanne recently.

The 2005 NatWest Island Games will be held on the Shetland Islands, but sadly for the Falklands, the two medal-winning events in Guernsey, full-bore rifle & pistol, will not be held. Shetland does not have a full-bore range and strict police regulations prohibit the importation of pistols.

The number of Islands taking part in two years time will increase to 24 with the inclusion of the Western Isles, comprising Lewis & Harris and Uist.

After a vote of all the islands, the 2007 Island Games were awarded to Rhodes. Three islands - Yns Mon (Anglesey), Åland (Finland) & Sareema (Estonia) have submitted nominations to act as host to the NatWest Games planned for the year 2009.



Gap year students in the Falkland Islands

Five students destined for the Falkland Islands for six months as part of their Gap Year met at Falkland House on September 4th. The students were given a briefing about Island life as well as meeting Falkland Islands Government Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron. They also had the opportunity to talk to three returned Gap volunteers about their experiences.

The students, shown in our picture at the left, include Andrew Baker from Huddersfield, Grant Sowerby from Bishop Auckland, Jack Cousin and Simon Parsons from Oxfordshire and Joshua Barton from the US. They left for the Islands on October 5th.

Miss Sukey Cameron said: "I know that the students will receive a warm welcome and will find the Falkland Islands a home from home. The Islands are absolutely beautiful and I guarantee that our spectacular scenery and wildlife will not disappoint".

Gap Year visits for students are organised by Gap Activity Projects based in Reading.

Falkland Islands Defence Force team in the medals

The Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) team excelled at Bisley in July. Members competed in three separate competitions: The Army Rifle Association Meeting, the Territorial Army meeting, and the National Rifle Association meeting.



Snap Shoot Silver and Bronze

The team excelled in the Snap Shoot, being beaten into second place by only one point by the Omanis. Captain Clarke got a score that would have put him in the Queen's Medal 100 finalists, although as an overseas competitor he was in the "honours only" category. Corporal Betts and Private Biggs won gold and silver respectively in the "Light Support Weapon" competition.

Individual Medals:

Captain Clarke won a gold medal as the top TA competitor in the Kinnaird Cup. He also won bronze bars in the Stephens and Bass competitions. **Captain Clarke** also won the first placing in the Home Guard competition, winning both the Gold Medal and the Challenge Trophy. With **Lieutenant Brownlee**, he also won bronze bars in the Service Rifle competition. **Captain Clarke** and **Private Biggs** both won bronze bars in the Queen Mary competition. In the Secretary of State competition, **Lieutenant Brownlee** and **Private Biggs** both won bronze bars. **Corporal Ian Betts** won a bronze bar in the "sitting" competition. **Corporal Smith** won the Tara Gold as the top Territorial Army competitor, and a bronze bar in the Wantage competition.



Above, left: The full team, left to right: Lieutenant Andy Brownlee, private Daniel Biggs, Sergeant David Peck, Corporal Russell Smith, Captain Derek Clarke, Corporal Ian Betts, Major Peter Biggs and Private Stuart Doyle. Lower picture, left: The team which won the silver medal in the Snap Shoot and bronze in the Territorial Army falling plate competition. Left to Right, they are: Stuart Doyle, Daniel Biggs, Andy Brownlee, and Ian Betts.

Above: Islanders and others receive their medals at Bisley.

AROUND THE ISLANDS



Above: Stanley Karate Club poses with visiting 5th Dan instructor Dave Wilkins. His visit was paid for by the Shackleton Fund for the Karate Club development week. Other instructors are Vaughan Davies and Karen Chenery. *Photograph: Zac Stephenson*



Islanders Marilyn Ford and Peter Finlayson tie the knot at the Narrows Bar.



Sgt Watson briefs Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) troops on safety drill prior to grenade throwing practice at the Rookery Bay range. Twenty-four members of the FIDF then set out on the Combat Fitness Course, which is an eight-mile walk carrying 25 kgs of kit.



British Forces Broadcasting Services engineer Albert Quatre re-aligns the satellite disk at Mount Pleasant Airport after a gale. It had been shifted only by millimetres, but this was enough to interrupt the incoming TV signals. KTV transmissions in Stanley were not affected.



Left: Stanley Fire Service pose for the camera after their training day. This was held at the old World War Two munitions dump at the Canache – which is now empty. The firemen, using their breathing apparatus, had to search the tunnels and to retrieve charred dummy casualties and extinguished a fire there. Additionally, they retrieved one of their own team, simulating a fireman overcome by smoke. Later, they coped with a mock traffic accident and, in conjunction with the airport fire team, put out a simulated aircraft fire at Stanley Airport.



SAMA WALES IS LAUNCHED

The South Atlantic Medal Association, made up of Falkland War Veterans, their families and Islanders recently celebrated the launch of its newest regional branch. On Saturday August 30th at the TA centre in Cardiff, over a hundred Veterans and special guests attended the inaugural meeting to launch **SAMA Wales**.

Attendance so outstripped first predictions that the event had to be moved from the original location into the drill hall. Speeches were made by Branch Chairman Mr Stephen Hopkins, Denzil Connick, National Secretary for SAMA, and "Curly" Jones the Regional Secretary. The special prayer of the association was read out followed by a minutes' silence for fallen comrades.

Veterans attended from all over the UK and their efforts were rewarded by a marvellous raffle organised by Chris Duggan who now takes on the task of the fund-raising for the branch.

Most of the guests hadn't seen their comrades for many years. Many eager conversations were heard mixed with laughter and tears. The whole evening was a spectacular success and there were calls for it to be repeated from all the veterans and families there. Special guests included Catherine Gorman from HTV Wales and Claire Williams from the Royal British Legion.

The night's star guests were three Falkland Islanders: **Tim & Jan Miller**, from Stanley, who kindly hosted four veterans last November during the SAMA pilgrimage: they were each presented with a hand-made Welsh Lovespoon as a "thank you" for their generous hospitality; and the third Islander was **Terry Betts**, who lived through the invasion in 1982. He flew in from Portugal, where he currently lives.

Concluded at right.

Tapestry for Westminster

Below is a picture of the the tapestry made by children at the Infant/Junior School to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It will be sewn together with 250 others from Commonwealth children all over the world and displayed in Westminster Abbey. It will later go to Australia, where it will be exhibited at the Commonwealth Games to be held in 2006.

The tapestry was designed by teacher Mrs. Ali Liddle. It is intended to depict the unique Stanley skyline, the stone runs, wildlife, and appropriately the old ship, *Lady Elizabeth* in Stanley harbour.



Above: The tapestry made by children at the Infant and Junior School in Stanley, to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee.



Above, both pictures: The newest regional branch of the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) celebrates its launch in Cardiff on 30th August 2003.

The objective of the evening was to see if a regional branch was feasible and sustainable. These two questions were answered by a resounding, Yes !!

SAMA Wales is now well and truly established and its committee is busy preparing a calendar of events to complement the parent organisation, the South Atlantic Medal Association.

Tragedy in Antarctica: Kirsty Brown

Kirsty Brown (28) was killed by a leopard seal on July 22nd while snorkelling in the bay at the British Antarctic Survey base of Rothera. Her "buddy" and the two-person shore cover team saw the incident. The rescue boat was launched immediately, and her colleagues pulled her from the water and began resuscitation. This was continued for one hour, but she could not be revived. British Antarctic Survey Director, Professor Chris Rapley said: "This is tragic and shocking. My heart goes out to Kirsty's family and her colleagues at Rothera".

Memorial Fund

Her family have set up a fund to support a research post in her memory.

Donations may be sent to Mr. Tim Brown, Swains, Marlpost Road, Southwater, Horsham, Sussex RH13 9BY.



Education successes

Excellent results have been achieved by Falklands students recently at British Universities. Top of the list are Peter Diggle and Anna Luxton, followed by James Wallace and Louise McLeod.

Peter has completed an arduous degree course at City University, London, linked to the Oxford Air Training School, and has graduated with a 1st Class Honours BSc degree in Air Transport Operations. He is now doing his Instructor Rating so he can train commercial and private pilots in basic flying techniques. This is a tremendous achievement and a just reward for Peter's hard work and dedication. I wish him well in the future.

Anna Luxton has gained a 1st Class Honours Degree in Physiotherapy, after three years hard study at Brunel University in Middlesex. Throughout her course Anna was described as enthusiastic and a pleasure to work with. Her last term was particularly challenging involving clinical practice in Cambridge and travel back to London at weekends. Anna has shown total dedication to both the practical and theoretical parts of her course. In the future, I'm sure her new skills will be a valuable asset to the Falklands.

James Wallace's studies have taken him from Chichester College where he obtained a Higher National Diploma in Business with four distinctions. He was then funded by FIG to top up his HND to a BA in International Business Administration and his latest result, a 2.1 Honours degree from Bournemouth University is most creditable. James has followed a number of learning routes to reach his goal. He will now go on to take a fast-track MBA for new graduates at Bournemouth. He is a good example of someone whose dedication to learning has grown over time and who is to be congratulated

on his achievement. I'll watch his progress with interest.

Last, but not least, Louise McLeod's 2.2 BA Honours degree in English represents three years hard work at St. Mary's College, Surrey. Louise is also a drama specialist and she will join the Falkland Islands Community School in September as a graduate teacher trainee.

I am delighted to welcome Louise back to the Islands and congratulate her on her degree result.

I know that the Education Board will be pleased to see a potential local teacher return to the Islands and I hope that her FICS experience will encourage her to complete a graduate teaching qualification following her year out of University.

Georgina Strange, who is studying for a Bachelor of Photography Degree at Griffith University in Australia, should learn about her final results this month (November 2003). Georgina's progress-updates hitherto have been impressive and recent displays of her work, suggest that the outcome of her studies will be most satisfactory.

Other students, who have already spent three years at University, enter the fourth and final year of their undergraduate studies in October 2003.

Stephen Betts continues his Biochemistry Degree at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford while Rodrigo Cordiero returns to Southampton University, following a year in Brazil, to complete his Iberian and Latin American Studies BA Degree.

Sylvia Cole, Director of Education.



Anna Luxton, who gained a First Class Degree at Brunel.

New Commander of British Forces is an experienced helicopter pilot

The new Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands (CBFFI) is Air Commodore Richard H Lacey, MA, who takes up the post in December.

His professional experience and his hobbies are particularly appropriate to the Falkland Islands. He is a very experienced helicopter pilot and his interests include photography and all aspects of the natural world as well as industrial archaeology and model engineering.

Though Air Commodore Lacey has not previously served in the Falkland Islands in an RAF career spanning more than 30 years, his sister, Kate, formerly an RAF Officer, was posted to the Falklands several years ago and his mother, a wildlife artist, has paid a brief visit there. So he has heard a lot about the Islands from them, as well from RAF colleagues.

Born and educated in Croydon, Air Commodore Lacey joined the RAF in 1972 as a University Cadet, graduating from Cambridge in 1975 with a degree in electrical sciences before entering officer and initial flying training at the RAF College Cranwell.

After advanced flying training at RAF Shawbury, he graduated from the Wessex Operational Conversion Unit in 1978 to join his first squadron, No 72 Squadron then based at Odiham in Hampshire, though much of his time was spent supporting the Army in Northern Ireland.

After an operational tour in Hong Kong, Air Commodore Lacey returned to the United Kingdom and RAF Shawbury as a flying instructor on the Wessex.

Promoted to Squadron Leader in 1985, he returned to the front line as a Flight Commander again with 72 Squadron, by now based full-time at RAF Aldergrove in Northern Ireland.

Thereafter, he served on the staff at RAF Support Command overseeing rotary wing training before attending the RAF Staff College at Bracknell in 1988. On graduation, he

served as the Personal Staff Officer to the Deputy Commander-in-Chief and later Commander-in-Chief of Strike Command who was then Commander of all British forces in the 1991 Gulf War.

Richard Lacey was promoted Wing Commander in 1990 and after conversion to Puma helicopters, he commanded No 33 Squadron at RAF Odiham. He later served in the Ministry of Defence (MOD), first in Air Plans as the NATO desk officer and, following promotion to Group Captain, in the Directorate of Joint Warfare. He became the first helicopter pilot to command RAF Benson.

He attended the Royal College of Defence Studies before taking up his present appointment as Director for NATO policy in the MOD, a post he has held for three years.

Air Commodore Lacey is married and has a daughter Alex, and a son Greg, both at university.

HWB



The newly appointed Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands, Air Commodore Richard H. Lacey, pictured with his wife.

RAF'S FALKLANDS ROLE IN WAR AND PEACE



Above: Combat Air Patrol leaves HMS *Hermes* during the 1982 War. Photograph: Crown Copyright/Ministry of Defence. Centre picture, below: Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, the first Falklands veteran to reach the very top. Below: Sir Peter with Tim Miller, at Lincolns Inn in 2001. Photograph: Harold Briley



The Royal Air Force has played a vital rôle in conflicts around the world since its pilots earned undying fame in 1939-45. But its contribution to the 1982 Falklands War has been overshadowed by the greater numerical presence of the Royal Navy and the Army.

Marking the recent retirement of the first Falklands veteran to reach the pinnacle of his profession, **Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire**, a Harrier pilot in 1982, this series puts into perspective the RAF's crucial role in the war and its activities since 1982, providing continuous front-line defence of the Falkland Islands and its life-line air-bridge from Great Britain. Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, GCB, DFC, AFC, ADC, D.Sc, was the first front-line officer of the Falklands War to become professional head of one of the three armed services, as Chief of Air Staff. He was one of the RAF's pilots who in 1982 joined their Royal Navy counterparts in the Harriers and helicopters in the vital protective shield for the Task Force, in dogfights with Argentine pilots, and in attacking Argentine ground forces.

Perilous Falklands missions

Wing Commander Squire was the commanding officer of the RAF's Number One (Fighter) Squadron of Harriers, hurriedly mobilised to become the first RAF aircraft to operate from an aircraft carrier, HMS *Hermes*, since the Second World War.

His squadron of six Harriers flew a total of 151 sorties, often two a day for each pilot, mainly ground attack and battlefield air interdiction, in dangerous low-level flying. Three of the Harriers were brought down by enemy fire and one crash-landed at Port San Carlos but attrition replacements were flown down from the United Kingdom.

Wing Commander Squire flew his Harrier off the cargo vessel, *Atlantic Conveyor* a few days before she was sunk by an Argentine Exocet missile. He was in action, day after day, with no respite, attacking Stanley Airport and other Argentine targets including Dunnose Head air strip in which an Islander, Tim Miller, was blinded in one eye by shrapnel. The two men later became friends. He became the first ever RAF pilot to launch a laser-guided "smart" bomb – attacking the Argentine troops on Mount Longdon. He had narrow escapes when he crash landed at Port San Carlos airstrip, and again just days before the war ended when a Blowpipe missile exploded near his Harrier, and a bullet penetrated his cockpit. After the war, engine failure forced him to eject before his aircraft crashed into the sea off Cape Pembroke.

Old foes meet in Argentina

Wing Commander Squire kept a fascinating personal day-to-day diary of operations. His awards include a Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Force Cross. In his last year of nearly forty in the RAF, he visited Argentina and met Argentine Air Force Chief, General Walter Barbero, who flew Boeing reconnaissance aircraft in the Falklands War, which Wing Commander Squire was tasked to intercept. Commenting on the possibility he might have shot him down, Air Chief Marshal Squire remarked: "We had great respect for the Argentine Air Force. They flew with great courage and skill. Having now met General Barbero, I am delighted that in 1982 I was unable to locate him".

Air Chief Marshal Squire has occupied senior command during intense and challenging activity as the RAF has carried out missions over Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He has now joined the War Graves Commission.

The Harriers armed with deadly sidewinder missiles for air combat and bombs for ground attack were one of the great success stories of the War. And it was an RAF Harrier pilot, Flt Lieutenant Dave Morgan, who proved perhaps the most effective in destroying several Argentine aircraft. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Astonishing story of the Black Buck Vulcan raid

The most spectacular RAF exploit was the Vulcan bomber raid on Stanley airport on May 1st, which had significant impact on the conduct of the war and on morale on both sides, far beyond the damage inflicted on the runway. It demonstrated the undreamt of reach of RAF retaliation, and caused colossal psychological repercussions in Argentina, with the realisation that mainland targets were within bombing reach.

Code-named "Black Buck", this was an astonishing feat of arms by any standards. It was the longest operational bombing mission ever attempted, a 6,760 miles round-trip from Ascension Island for the ageing delta-winged bomber whose inadequate navigational system and long abandoned flight-refuelling capability had to be restored.

No fewer than 14 aircraft were deployed to get just one Vulcan to its target. With no intelligence on Argentine fighter and missile defence, the operation had to be carried out at night, in radio silence, with no rehearsal. As soon as the bomber/tanker force roared off the runway at Wideawake Airfield, one of the two Vulcans had to abandon the mission when its pressurisation failed, as did one of the 12 Victor refuelling tankers with a defective hose.

Catastrophe was averted when four of the refuelling Victors arrived back at Ascension almost simultaneously, desperately short of fuel. Only the skill of the pilots narrowly avoided a disastrous pile-up on the crowded runway which would have destroyed a quarter of the RAF's total South Atlantic tanker force. Another tanker had a fuel leak and one of the last two



1: Victor tankers refuelling on the way to the Falklands.
 2: A Vulcan is re-fuelled: a picture taken through the porthole of the refuelling Victor tanker.
 3: Vulcan XM598 on the apron at Ascension. It took part in the bombing missions too.

Note: All photographs on pages 15 and 16 are reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright/Ministry of Defence.



3: Black Buck 1, Vulcan XM607, returns to Ascension Island on 1st May 1982, after bombing Stanley Airport.



5: RAF Harrier GR3 landing on *Hermes* during the War.

6: Flight deck scene on *HMS Hermes* in 1982.

7: The one surviving Chinook from the Atlantic Conveyor disaster landing at Port San Carlos.



air superiority over the battered Task Force. Harriers could hunt down and destroy attacking aircraft without interference from enemy fighters.

What the British did not know is that, according to the Argentines, President Galtieri had decided on April 30th to withdraw his forces to comply with the United Nations resolution and to seek negotiations on sovereignty. He reportedly changed his mind as a result of the Vulcan and Harrier attacks on Stanley Airport on May 1st.

Of the many different types of RAF and Royal Navy aircraft, the busiest of all was probably the lone Chinook helicopter (code-sign ZA 718) which survived the sinking of Atlantic Conveyor, in which three other Chinooks were lost.

In 17 days of non-stop support of the land forces, the Chinook made an unrivalled contribution to the campaign. It flew for 109 hours, carried 2,150 troops, including 95 casualties and 550 prisoners of war, and moved 550 tons of supplies. Its chief pilot, Squadron Leader Dick Langsworth, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.



The RAF's unique Air Bridge

Since 1982, the RAF has maintained the lifeline air bridge from Brize Norton to the Falkland Islands, the only direct UK link providing a unique passenger service for the 2,400 islanders as well as the military.

Its aircraft have transported many thousands of troops to maintain the garrison. RAF personnel man Mount Pleasant Airfield; the three radar stations – at Byron Heights and Mount Alice in West Falkland and Mount Kent in East Falkland – keeping constant watch for marauders; rapier missiles; the front-line fighter defence of Tornados; maritime reconnaissance and freighter Hercules; and VC-10 refuelling tankers, to keep aircraft airborne over vast areas of ocean in tempestuous weather.

The air bridge – code-named "Cannonball" – was operated first by Hercules transport aircraft which had to refuel at Dakar in West Africa, at Ascension Island, then twice in the air to the Falklands, landing on the short Stanley Airport runway.

tankers broke its probe in a violent tropical storm, leaving only one Victor to press on with the Vulcan, both acutely short of fuel, and in danger of ditching. To maintain surprise, no radio SOS was possible.

Enormous psychological impact

As the Vulcan began its bombing run, it was detected by Argentine gun-control radar. But its twenty-one 1,000 pound bombs straddled the runway. The explosions woke the startled Islanders from their sleep but, it tremendously boosted their morale. Tony Chater recalls: "The whole house shook, as though there had been an earthquake. There was terrific jubilation. From then on, we felt confident the British forces would come to our rescue".

The aircraft broke radio silence with the code-word "Superfuse" indicating the raid had succeeded. Despite more refuelling problems, the Vulcan managed to get back to Ascension and complete its 16-hour-long mission. Its pilot, Martin Withers, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Victor pilot, Bob Tuxford, the Air Force Cross. The effort expended was out of all proportion to the damage to the runway which the Argentines continued to use. But the psychological impact was enormous. The Argentine Air Force removed its only dedicated fighter interceptor squadron, the Mirage fighters of Gruppo 8, from Rio Gallegos and Falklands operations, to re-deploy further north at Comodoro Rivadavia for mainland defence.

The Argentines had conceded defeat in the crucial battle for



Hercules ready for takeoff at Stanley – 1982



100-million miles serving the Falklands

Now passengers, military and civilian, Islanders and tourists, travel in comparative comfort in former commercial Tristars, refuelling only once, at Ascension Island.

These 260-seater airliners and a fleet of VC-Ten tanker refuelling aircraft are operated by 216 Squadron at Brize Norton. It originated from a Royal Naval Air Squadron in the First World War. Its motto, "Dona Ferens", meaning "Bearing Gifts", refers to its deadly initial role as a bomber unit, not to its more benign peaceful Falklands role today.

Its indefatigable pilots have flown more than 100 million miles, on the 16,000 mile return flight, burning 140 tons of fuel each way. They also maintain tanker aircraft on permanent quick reaction alert (QRA) in the Falklands to refuel the Tornado fighters for combat.

The four Tornados of 1435 flight are affectionately known as "Faith", "Hope" and "Charity" — as were that flight's three Gladiators which defended Malta in the early days of WW2 — and "Desperation".

The forces welcome the unique Falklands facilities for tri-service training including low-flying. The Islanders call the RAF fighters "the sound of freedom."

Emergency medivacs save lives

The RAF in co-operation with military and civilian medical teams from the hospital in Stanley have saved the lives of several Islanders with severe heart problems and even a baby born dangerously ill and also the lives of foreign seamen on the fishing fleets rescued by RAF helicopters.

Maritime radar reconnaissance Hercules patrol the vast two-million square miles of ocean of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories to keep a check on illegal fishing vessels and maintain a military presence as far south as the South Sandwich Islands and Southern Thule. The RAF's worst enemy now is the weather — treacherous cross-winds when landing, howling gales in the air, often poor visibility, and snow on the ground. The nearest diversion airfields are a thousand miles away on the South American mainland.

RAF takes over Falklands defence

After the Conflict, the Falklands were defended by Phantom fighters, led by Wing Commander Ian Macfadyen, one of the RAF's top aerobatic display flyers. In one of the longest and most challenging flights of his forty year RAF career, he flew the first of eight Phantoms to the Falklands to replace the Task Force Harriers.

Accompanied by 19 tanker aircraft, he had to refuel in flight 35 times as well as at Ascension. Air Marshal Ian Macfadyen, CB, OBE, later commanded British forces in the first Gulf War as Chief of Staff, then successor to General Sir Peter de la Bil-

lière. He is now Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man.

In a reunion there exactly 20 years since Harold Briley watched him land at Stanley, Air Marshal Macfadyen said his one regret is that professional duties in 1982 were so hectic with no time off that he met so few Islanders, who, he said, were utterly friendly and welcoming. RAF pilots say it is much the same now!

Harold Briley

Note: The Newsletter acknowledges with thanks help in compiling these reports from RAF Public Relations, and from Brize Norton Squadron Leaders Dave Rowe (PR), Neil Purvis, Flight Commander Air, 36 (11/5/36), 216 Squadron; and Adrian Dawe, Flt Commander, Plans; and Flt Lieutenant Syd Buxton; and many other RAF personnel past and present. We also thank the Air historical Branch (RAF), Bentley Priory, for supplying most of the photographs used.

8: Falklands defence operations today: A Tornado interceptor above the clouds. Crown Copyright/Ministry of Defence.

9: Airbridge Tristars parked at Brize Norton air base, Oxfordshire.

10: Air Marshal Ian Macfadyen, CBE, OBE



80 years on

Born at Black Rock, on East Falkland in 1923, I thought readers might be interested in my early life as a shepherd's son, and in camp life in general.

At five and a half years of age, my first recollection is starting school, when travelling teacher, Mr David Honeyman, arrived to teach my elder brother and me. This was a great novelty, but soon after the school door closed I had a different opinion, although I soon settled to the task ahead.

The travelling teacher had a special beat, covered on horseback, giving each camp house a three-week term, approximately once a year. You were allocated homework to keep you going until the next visit. Subjects were: basic money calculations and arithmetic as a priority, reading, writing and spelling. I was never taught history, only a little about England. Most of what I know I had learned myself during my early bunkhouse days, in the long dark evenings. Just before I finished school, the teachers' visits were reduced to two-week terms, but with each end house receiving four weeks. I believe this was due to problems recruiting teachers and more pupils to cater for.

Communications throughout Camp were virtually nil, although there was a telephone line between Stanley and Darwin, with poles 80 yards apart for 49 miles. Mount Pleasant was the only Camp house connected. Other Camp houses were added in the '30s and communications slowly improved.

Fire Signals

Prior to the telephone, contact between Camp houses was by personal visit and a unique Fire Signal system. If help was required, one fire was lit on the highest land near the house. Two fires meant a doctor was needed. Whoever spotted the signal would go to the doctor in Darwin, and then with him to the house that had raised the alarm. A three fire signal indicated a death. Fire signals were still used late into the 1940s and I spotted and responded to two. Once I went with the doctor to a family after a two fire signal, the other was to a shepherd who had been thrown from his horse and crippled. It had been five days before he had struggled to a high point to raise the signal. Fortunately, each case ended successfully.

Camp life was unique, healthy but strenuous for husband and wife alike, with youngsters sharing in the daily chores as soon as they could. Most Camp houses had very large families, especially in the earlier days. Most children were born at home with the nearest neighbour acting as midwife and staying until the mother could return to her normal duties. Very rarely were there failures in what was expected of them. Incidentally, my youngest daughter was probably one of the last births to take place in Camp, at High Hill in 1952, under my Mother's supervision.

My Father looked after some 3,200 sheep. Once spring arrived the hard work began,



**Above: Stan Smith in his shooting team blazer.
Right: Stan as an eight-year-old outside Black Rock house in 1931.**

first peat cutting, then work such as shearing and dipping (nowadays that is deemed unnecessary).

This took him away from September to the end of April, and mother took on the daily chores. This included weeding the vegetable garden, ricking the peat during drying, milking, making butter and preserving milk for winter when the snows arrived and the cows were turned loose to graze until spring. A cow herd averaged between 12 and 15 animals.

Rearing and taming the calves was an art in itself. If recovered when only two days old, the job was easy, but if found at two to three weeks it was different. At this age they could be very vicious and one could be injured if care were not taken. After ten to fourteen days of attention they became friendlier and easier to handle. Whilst young they were tethered out in the afternoons. At six weeks of age they were separated from their mothers and put to graze in a separate paddock, a dog was a handy weapon at this stage.

My parents lived in a Camp house for thirty-two years and each year returned 12 to 15 calves, tamed and named, to the main herd. Each Camp house had 60 to 70 head of cattle. Wouldn't the new abattoir authorities be grateful if this were so today. Most farms never recognised the efforts of their employees, and their wives, in keeping the herds free from wild cattle.

From the age of eight I had an active role in animal care, milking, handling calves and feeding dogs (four or five being normal for sheep mustering). Eggs were essential and each house had poultry. In the laying season eggs were preserved in waterglass and would keep for about two years.

At 15 the time came for me to earn my own keep.

On December 1st, 1938, I began work as houseboy in Darwin, for the manager, Mr Goddard, at £2 per month. Having left home, all the work I used to do fell on Mother who, moving on in years, found it hard to cope during the long season months. Assistance was difficult to obtain and my Father, on £7 per month, had little cash to spare for this.

I hope this gives some indication of what life was like for a young boy living in an isolated Camp house all those years ago.

J. Stan Smith



Obituaries

Brian Paul

We regret to announce the death of Brian John Paul on the September 4th in his home town, Wells, after a battle against prostate cancer lasting 18 months.

Brian was born in Tucker Street, Wells, where he was later to have his Falklands shop, on New Year's Eve, 1937. Next door lived his future partner, Annabelle Spencer. They were childhood sweethearts.

Brian's early life centred around a love of nature and especially horses. His uncle Rod bought and sold them, and Brian helped train them. He served in the then Royal Horse Guards of the Household Cavalry, proudly wearing "Horse" on his epaulette. He was the Blues and Royals' representative in Somerset until his death. Twice he took part in the Trooping of the Colour. While on leave he would ride at point-to-point and other equestrian events.

Brian became an entrepreneur and builder by trade. He worked his apprenticeship as a plasterer. Whilst living on Dartmoor, Brian built a magnificent house, by hand, from a green field site.

Brian married and was divorced in the '60s. He had two daughters, Sharon and Sarah, and now has five grandsons.

In 1979, Brian went to the Falklands. That adventure changed his life for ever. Brian got a job at the Radio Station in Stanley and stayed on another six years.

Brian was in Stanley during the Argentine occupation. Because of his military background he was elected Safety Officer for the hospital. In the course of his humanitarian duties, he visited all three of the Argentine commanders. Afterwards he was awarded a commendation by Sir Rex Hunt for driving the ambulance to save lives while under fire. He was civil/military liaison officer after the liberation, engaged in such tasks as getting rice to the Gurkhas. He later became a member of SAMA '82.

Because of his great skill as a gardener, Brian became involved in the very first discussions of hydroponic farming in the Falklands – which has flourished since.

In 1984, Brian's parallel skill as an equestrian led to an invitation to travel to the United States to train an equestrian team in Michigan State. Later, in 1984, Annabelle returned with Brian to the Falkland Islands for a six-month camping and backpacking expedition all over the territory, filming the unique way of life of the Islanders and the amazing wildlife.

Brian returned to Wells in 1985. There he and Annabelle his partner set up the first and only Falklands shop in the UK – in Tucker Street where both had grown up. They



Above, top: Brian Paul and his partner, Annabelle Spencer. Lower picture: The couple's shop, the Falkland Islands Agency, in Wells.

have attended all Falklands functions since then, promoting Falklands books, wool and other products. They put on 16 consecutive annual Falklands exhibitions in Croydon, and gave hundreds of lectures on the Falklands all around the United Kingdom.

Always looking for adventure Brian rode the Nez Perce Trail in 1994 along the battle sites of the Indian wars on traditional Appaloosa horses through Idaho and Montana to the Canadian border – some 1000 miles of route.

Brian and Annabelle also bred a prize winning flock of Merino sheep at their field and haybarn outside Wells. His funeral took place there on September 17th, followed by cremation at Bath. Brian is survived by Annabelle, who will continue his work of lecturing, running the shop and putting on exhibitions.

Doris Dodson

The UK Falkland Islands Trust (UKFIT) has been saddened by the death of its former long-serving Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Doris Dodson, and paid tribute to her outstanding service.

Having formerly worked for the Canadian-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce in London, she was recruited by UKFIT's founder chairman, General Nigel Gribbon in 1986, at the age of 61, combining both jobs for a few years. She offered her home in Kennington Lane, South London, as the Registered Office of the Trust, voluntarily cataloguing, archiving and storing Trust documents.

Doris ended her 15 years' distinguished service with UKFIT two years ago on the grounds of ill health at the age of 76. She served three UKFIT chairmen, Air Commodore Peter Johnson and his two predecessors, General Nigel Gribbon and Captain Paddy Vincent, all of whom expressed gratitude for her dedication, integrity, reliability and adaptability, especially her feat in learn-

ing to use a computer competently at the age of 75.

Air Commodore Johnson praised her unflinching good humour despite constant pain from rheumatoid arthritis, which she suffered from the early age of 28. He said:

"By sheer determination, persistence and sense of duty, for fifteen years beyond the normal retirement age, Doris overcame increasingly serious disability problems to provide an unblemished and wholly outstanding level of service to the UK Falkland Islands Trust".

The Trustees sent flowers to the church at Doris's funeral and a card of condolence to her family, and also made a donation to the church she attended, Saint Mary's in Newington. Doris was truly an institution, and she is sadly missed.



Liberation yomp raises £1,000

Three Falklands youngsters marched 30 miles and climbed seven peaks around Stanley to celebrate the liberation in 1982 - in what they described as the "most arduous" experience any of them had experienced.

Zoran Zuvic-Bulic, Matthew Eccles and Sean Moffat, each carrying a military bergen weighing 30kgs, marched for two days and camped out for two nights in bad weather over the Liberation Day weekend to complete the challenge.

The trio set out at 4.30pm on Friday night and marched to Wireless Ridge, camping for the night in the old WW2 bunker there. Next day they reached the summit of Mount Longdon by lunchtime, unfurling the Union Flag by the monument (photo above). From Longdon, Two Sisters was shrouded in mist, but this was reached through a waterlogged valley and through snowdrifts on the higher ground - in driving sleet. The trio camped, soaked, near the Murrel bridge.



Above: Unfurling the Flag at the summit of Mount Longdon.
Left: The trio on the march in distinctly wintry weather.

Sunday dawned with a lot more mist and rain. Several stone runs had to be crossed before Mount Harriet could be reached. A wreath was laid for the Royal Marines who fell there. Next came Mount William and then Tumbledown. They reached the Liberation Monument back in Stanley by 6.30pm (see the *Front Cover* picture) to be cheered in by friends and family.

The yomp raised over £1,000 for SAMA '82, the South Atlantic Medal Association. The trio thanked Terry Peck for his encouragement and for inspiring the challenge, and all their sponsors. The yompers sent their thanks to the troops in 1982, who had marched all the way from Port San Carlos, carried much heavier loads, and fought a war as well.

A Country Lad in the South Atlantic



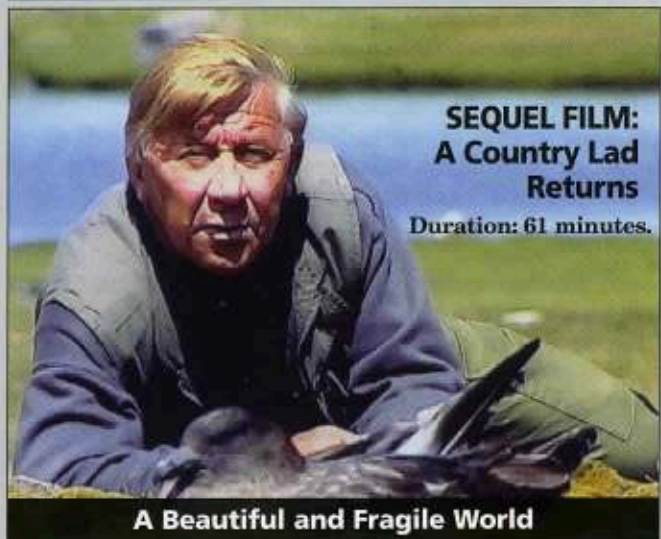
FILM

Duration: 90 minutes.

This film continues the story of the admiration that the 'Country Lad' has for the Falkland Islands, and for the fragile balance of its wildlife. And there is the spectacular and inspiring sight of a sheep gather...

Both films are available for £12.99 from:
David A J Rabbitts,
Glendale, Cotherstone, Barnard Castle,
Co. Durham, England, DL12 9UH. Tel: 01833 650384
For overseas orders other than the Falkland Islands,
please add £1.50 p&p. NTSC Format available.

'A Country Lad in the South Atlantic' is a beautiful and well established video illustrating the Falkland Islands, its people and wildlife. It is quite the best way to get to know these beautiful islands, perhaps when planning a visit. It is also a perfect Christmas gift for Falkland lovers. Now there's a sequel to this popular film, by the same producer: 'A Beautiful and Fragile World: A Country Lad Returns': see below. Ordering details in box at left.



SEQUEL FILM:
A Country Lad
Returns

Duration: 61 minutes.

A Beautiful and Fragile World

Book review

'5th Infantry Brigade in the Falklands'

By Nicholas van der Bijl and David Aldea.

Published by Pen & Sword Books Limited

47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS

Tel: 01226 734222 / 734555 Fax: 01226 734438.

E-mail: enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk.

Hardback 233 pages. Price: £19.95. ISBN: 0 85052 948 4

With more than 200 books on the Falklands War, this latest contribution by a former Intelligence Corps soldier who served in the war and a Chilean-born author living in Australia, fills a neglected gap by tracing the campaign by 5th Infantry Brigade. It argues that "no other brigade in modern times could have been so badly prepared and the blame should not be levelled at its Brigadier Commander, Tony Wilson", who "was conspicuously overlooked in the postwar honours".

5th Infantry Brigade made a key contribution to the campaign with its Scots and Welsh Guards and Gurkha battalions, reinforced with 2 Para. The Scots Guards fought one of the toughest battles of the war on Tumbledown.

It is a confusing narrative, crammed with detail of units and names, both British and Argentine, with their personal recollections. But it sheds fresh light on some of the most controversial aspects and personalities of the war, and carries interesting pictures of troops on both sides.

It sympathises with Brigadier Wilson's predicament under pressure, as he planned to open up the southern flank by advancing to Fitzroy and Bluff Cove and taking Tumbledown and Mount William in a swift advance upon Stanley.

Near disasters from 'friendly fire'

The Brigade pressed ahead in both glorious and tragic circumstances, courting disaster on several occasions from friendly fire through various communications failures. The 3rd Commando Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Julian Thompson, had no idea of Wilson's plan to leap forward by helicoptering paratroops to seize Fitzroy and Bluff Cove.

Disaster was narrowly avoided when British fire was about to be brought down on the paratroops. A break in the clouds revealed that they were British not Argentine troops.

What could have been the most costly disaster of the war involved 600 Scots Guards and others, commanded by Major (later Major General) Iain Mackay-Dick, coming ashore at Fitzroy in four landing craft. They were nearly sunk by two British ships, HMS Cardiff and Yarmouth, whose captains had been wrongly told there would be only enemy in the area.

"Cardiff's commander, Captain Michael Harris, and his gunnery officer flipped a coin to decide whether to load his guns with high explosive or illumination". Fortunately, they chose star shells which identified them as British.

In other incidents, a Scots Guards patrol nearly machine-gunned another; a Harrier strike was narrowly averted when a Gurkha patrol thought a British radio unit was Argentine; and a missile from HMS Cardiff shot down a British helicopter.

Fate conspires against 'bold move'

With his swift advance to occupy Fitzroy and Bluff Cove, "Wilson had taken a huge risk and had pulled off a bold move worthy of far more credit than was given to him". But his luck ran out with the Argentine air strike on the *Sir Tristram* and *Sir Galahad*, with heavy loss of life to the Welsh Guards.

The book tells how a Royal Marines Major, Ewen Southby-Tailyour, with vast knowledge of Falklands' waters, ordered that the Welsh Guards, kept aboard *Sir Galahad* for several hours, should be landed immediately. But two Army Majors, not understanding the risk of air attack, rejected his orders and demanded that they be taken by sea to Bluff Cove.

The Welsh Guards' offer that they would defend the ship against air attack with machine guns was rejected by *Sir Galahad's* captain in the mistaken belief there was effective defence by ground-based Rapier missiles and air combat patrols.

Commodore's strength of character

The book tells how Commodore Mike Clapp, Commander of Amphibious operations, as "the man on the spot", had to take many critical and difficult decisions. He was sceptical of Wilson's southern flank plan, and of moving troops by sea close to enemy-held territory. "Commodore Clapp has never really been given the credit due to him in making a major contribution to speeding up the military advance and hastening victory".

Brigadier Wilson retired from the army amid criticism of what happened at Fitzroy "over which he had little control".

Tributes to Islanders – and danger of massacre

In several tributes to the Islanders, the book describes how, at Fitzroy, Ron Binnie told the paratroops in a telephone call there were no Argentine forces there, and how the paratroop Commander, Lt. Colonel David Chaundler joined Ron and Linda Binnie for "tea and cakes", a welcome repeated over and over again, as the book describes. "The Kilmartins of Bluff Cove did much to rejuvenate the soldiers with mutton, hot meals, somewhere to dry socks and transport to move men and equipment. The kindness of the civilians is often overlooked... Those who came into contact with them are unlikely to forget their generosity in raising spirits and maintaining morale. It started with the Millers at Port San Carlos and the Shorts at San Carlos opening their houses and farm buildings, and carried right through Goose Green, Teal Inlet, Fitzroy, Bluff Cove and other settlements to the end in Stanley. Their contribution to the campaign was significant".

Van der Bijl, who in his previous book *Nine Battles to Stanley*, wrongly accused the Islanders of barring Argentine relatives from visiting the Argentine war cemetery at Darwin, makes amends in this book by correcting that error and paying tribute to the Islanders' consideration and compassion for visiting Argentine relatives.

What is little known is that Islanders were in danger of being massacred by Argentine soldiers angry at their defeat. Brigadier Oscar Jofre, Commander of Argentine Land Forces, is quoted as saying that, as surrender became inevitable, one of his officers told him: "Many soldiers are in a strange state and the Kelpers are bound to get hurt. One 3rd Regiment Platoon has been told to go into the houses by a fanatical lieutenant, who has ordered the men to kill the Kelpers – something awful is happening. I'll never forget that moment. It was like a lightning bolt had hit me. I was no longer in control. We've had it. The lives of the Kelpers are being risked. I told General Menendez, and he realised that there could be no question of fighting on any further".

Harold Briley



Commodore Mike Clapp photographed at the Cenotaph, on Battle Day 2002.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS JOURNAL 2002

Edited by Dr Jim McAdam
Published by the Editor, Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Softback A5, 178 pages, including Foreword. Contents: 21 articles, which includes reports by five winners of the Alastair Cameron Memorial History Prizes 2001, 32 black and white photos, drawings, maps, plans and diagrams. ISSN 0256 – 1824. Price £9(inc.p&p UK)

The Falkland Islands Journal gets larger each year with an ever-increasing number of new authors. I suppose it is inevitable that the majority of subjects concern ships or the sea. The front cover this time is of R.M.S. Falkland, accompanying a longish article in the Journal by Gerald Roberts of his memories of the ship which his father, Captain David W. Roberts, commanded. Then there are articles about L'Uranie and the clipper Sea Squall. There is an interesting article by Canon Stephen Palmer on Fish and Fishing in the Falklands.

There are also articles about people: Madam du Barry, Archibald McLean and his family, and Flight Lieutenant Donald Eric Turner RAFVR, one of 'the few'.

This time the five Alastair Cameron History Prize articles include the Old Settlement at Port Egmont, the 'Box', Penguin News, the Reclus Hut and the May Ball. This last article is especially valuable as it lists the May Queens, Princesses and Prince Charmings since 1949. RNS

Copies of *The Falkland Islands Journal* are available from: Mr. F. G. Mitchell, 2 Egliston Mews, Putney, London, SW15 1AP.

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WE ARE 1,000 STRONG: COME AND JOIN US!

The Falkland Islands Association is delighted to report a significant milestone in its expansion. This year it has exceeded 1,000 members, the target our Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, set two years ago. Most are UK members but there are also more than 100 from overseas.

We have recently welcomed new members who were born or who have relatives in the Falklands, former members of the Armed Forces who have served there in the 1982 Task Force and since, including several Commanders, former officials who have served in the Falkland Islands Government, a former Church Minister, tourists and others. All subscribe to our main aim – to defend the Islanders' right to self-determination.

Now we wish to go from strength to strength and add to our membership, in Britain and in the Islands, to support the continuing freedom of the Islanders to live under the British flag and their rejection of Argentina's sovereignty claim. The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) with its own office in London, tirelessly lobbying on behalf of the Islanders, fully supports what we do.

What the Falkland Islands Association does

The Association plays its own significant supportive role. It maintains close links with many other organisations interested in the Falklands, and with its own contacts in the Islands, not least its indomitable Stanley Committee. This committee is a valuable sounding board for Falkland Islanders' opinion and provides outstanding financial support by voluntarily raising funds for the Association. Leading members of the Association regularly visit the Islands.

Argentina's activities are ceaselessly monitored as part of the Association's surveillance of political and press activity which may undermine Falkland Islanders' interests. It takes appropriate action to counter such threats, seeking meetings with ministers or officials, and rebutting hostile, inaccurate or misleading reports. Executive Committee members recently met the Governor, Mr. Howard Pearce, and the Minister for Latin America, Mr. Bill Rammell MP.

The Association's Newsletter is free to members and sent to many other influential people such as Members of Parliament and Foreign Embassies to keep them informed about Falklands issues, including political, social and economic activity, wildlife, tourism, education and other topics, as well as Argentina's actions.



Falkland Islands supporters celebrate Liberation Day at Lincoln's Inn. Picture by Lewis Photosj24

Unwavering support for freedom

The Association has always provided unwavering support to the Islanders in good times and bad, in peace and in war, and especially in periods of crisis when it looked as if the British Government might waver in the face of Argentine demands.

Argentina, under its latest government, has predictably renewed and intensified its claim to the Falkland Islands, which it relentlessly pursues diplomatically despite its defeat militarily.

It is as important as ever that the Islanders should have a strong voice in Britain to make sure that their just cause never goes by default. **So please join us.** You'll find a membership application form on the opposite page. Photocopy it or cut it out and send it to us with your contribution. The names of our officials are shown opposite, too. And you can learn more from our website. *Our web address is: www.fiassociation.co.uk* HWW

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 this *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.*

ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the Newsletter is 5,500 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, all Members of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly, Members of the House of Lords, all British Members of the European Parliament, and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth and foreign countries. 700 copies are distributed in the Falkland Islands. *Advertising rates are as follows:*

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

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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. *Accordingly:*

I/We wish to join the Falkland Islands Association.

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**Battle Day and
Annual General Meeting:**

Saturday 6th December 2003.



Top: Islanders and members of the Armed Forces brave the ice-cold sea for the Falklands Mid-Winter Swim. Various charities benefited from this traditional Islands event. *Photograph: Zac Stephenson.* **Lower picture:** Falklands Councillors, Richard Cockwell [left] and Stephen Luxton [right], with the Clerk to the Falkland Islands Council, Claudette Anderson and the Speaker of the House of Commons, Michael Martin MP, pictured at Westminster recently. *Photograph: Terry Moore*