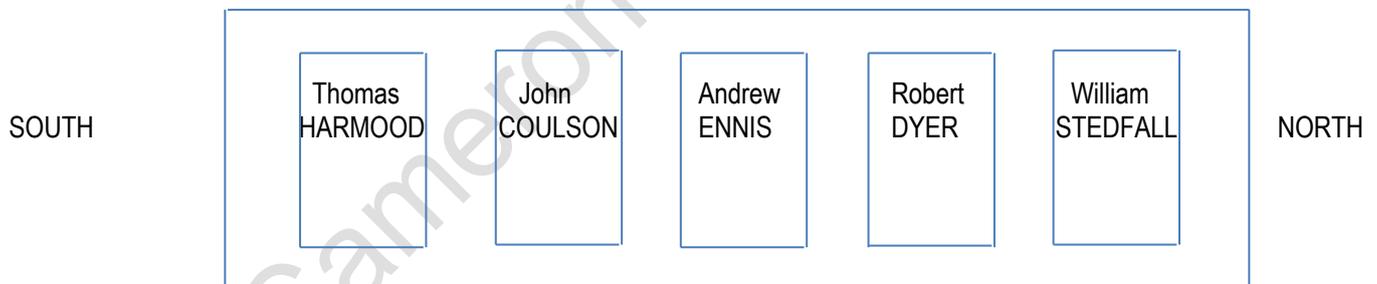


Mount Egmont Military Cemetery Saunders Island

This cemetery is located on the southern slope of Mount Egmont laid out about 400 yards to the north of the original settlement. In 1992 four rectangular hollows were visible, three of which were marked by thin upright stones. A 1996 survey revealed a total of at least eight graves marked by either stones or hollows or by both.

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	NOTES
HARWOOD, Thomas	1766 Jul 20	From HMS <i>Jason</i> . Died at 6am Sunday. Laid to rest with 3 vols small arms Monday 21 July 1766
COULSON, John	1766 Nov 29	From HMS <i>Jason</i> . Died at 4pm Saturday. Buried with 3 vols small arms at 7pm Sunday 30 November 1766
ENNIS, Andrew	1766 Dec 26	Master-at-arms HMS <i>Jason</i> . Died on Friday 26 December 1766
DYER, Robert	1769 Apr 15	Purser HMS <i>Favourite</i>
STEDFALL, William	1769 or 1770	Private RMLI. Either HMS <i>Favourite</i> or <i>Swift</i>



Graves at Port Egmont and other matters.

By An Officer.

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In common with many other places, the Falkland Islands have suffered at the hands of the historian. I need only mention the names of "Hawkins' Maiden Land" and "Pepys' Islands" to illustrate my meaning.

These two names are examples of the way in which mistakes are copied from one book to another until they establish a sort of vested interest. Neither of them was originally applied to the Falklands. The association came about as a result of conjecture on the part of well-meaning but ill-informed historians who did not take the trouble or had not the means of verifying their suppositions.

Let us take the case of Hawkins. He sighted land where he did not expect to find it, because "no platt nor sea card" in his possession bore any mention of land in the vicinity where he happened to be. The question to be settled is, "Where was he?" He tells us in his own account that he was "next of anything (i.e. as near as possible) in 48 degrees" of South Latitude. During much research into the writings of old navigators I have observed that it was a common thing for them to mention latitude but no longitude, and that their calculations of latitude almost invariably agree with those of our own. Their accuracy in this respect is remarkable. But in those days there was no conventional zero of longitude and it was their custom to take a departure from a point of land — such as the Lizard, if they were sailing from England, — and to take a fresh departure from each land they encountered.

From Hawkins' own account we learn that the land he sighted was "a goodly champion country, and peopled; we saw many fires but could not come to speak with the people". Also he tells us that "it hath great rivers of fresh waters; for the outshoot of them colours the sea in many places as we ran alongst it". I need only tell those who

know anything about the Falklands that the above description was applied to a place which is usually supposed to be the Falkland Islands, to convince them how utterly incorrect the supposition is. If we look at the map of South America in "next of anything of 48 degrees" we see that the mainland projects out into the South Atlantic and that it is possible that this projection — immediately to the Southward of the Gulf of St. George — especially if approached from the Northward would appear to form part of the Northern coast of an island. But when Hawkins says "if a man bring this point southwest, it riseth in three mounts or hillocks; bringing it more westerly, then shoot themselves into one, and bringing it easterly it riseth into two hillocks. This point we call Tremountayne" — any suspicion is converted into a certainty, for a good map shows at the southern opening of the Gulf of St. George the Cabo Tres Puntas, which is nothing more or less than Hawkins' "Tremountayne". Beyond any possible doubt, this is the place which he saw and called "Hawkins' Maiden Land" and the great rivers of fresh water are the Rios Deseado, S. Denis and Bajos.

Capt. Cowley almost certainly saw land in nearly the same locality. There is not time to go fully into the story in a short article like the present, but judging from the amount of time and trouble wasted on various attempts by ships of the British Navy to re-discover the so-called Pepys' Islands over a long period of years, the Admiralty did not by any means agree with the opinion that the land which Cowley reported was what we now know as the Falkland Islands.

Graves are to be found dotted all round the coasts of the Islands. Could we only know the story of those who sleep within sound of the everlasting breakers, what a tale it would be!! Whalers from New Bedford; victims of scurvy or beri-beri from stately old ships; old Spanish sea-rovers, seekers after buried treasure — all these have contributed their quota. But there is a little row of graves on the Southern slopes of Mount Egmont of peculiar interest; graves of men who made the supreme sacrifice for

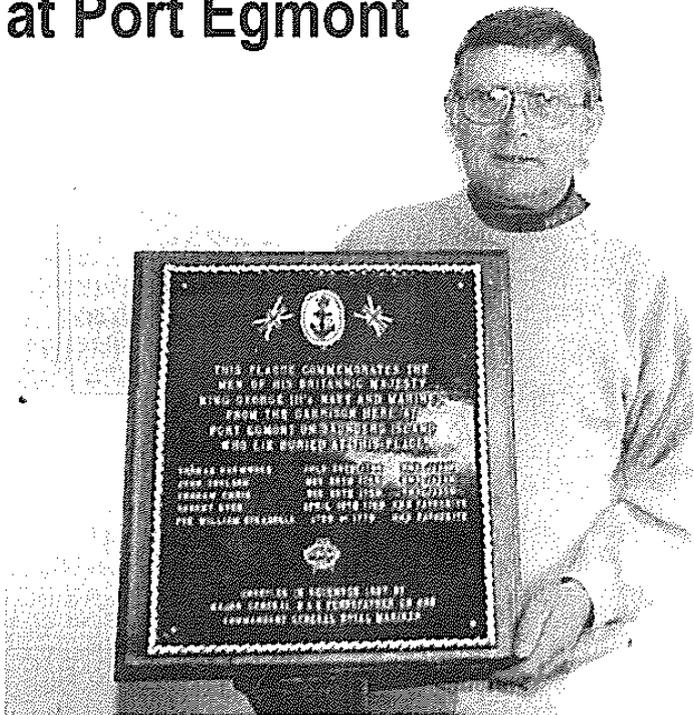
their King and Country in an enterprise which is almost forgotten. They are nameless at present, but this need be so no longer. During a search in the National Record Office I found the names of the men who were laid to rest there. And if this should meet the eye of the Senior Naval Officer on the South American Station, I hope he will see to it that they remain nameless no longer.

Unfortunately I forget the exact number of the graves in question; but if you stand to the Southward of them and look to the Northward, counting from left to right, the names are as follows: —

1. Mr. Thomas Harmood, who died at 6 a.m. on Sunday July 20th 1766 and was "laid to rest with 3 vols. small arms" on Monday July 21st. He was one of H.M.S. Jason's people (Capt. J. McBride) who founded the settlement at Port Egmont.
2. Mr. John Coulson, H.M.S. Jason, who "departed this life at 4 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 29th 1766 and was buried with 3 vols. small arms at 7 p.m. on Sunday Nov. 30th".
3. Andrew Ennis, Master-at-Arms, H.M.S. Jason, who died on Friday December 26th 1766.
4. Mr. Robert Dyer, Purser, H.M.S. Favourite (Capt. George Farmer) who died April 15th 1769.
5. Pte. William Stedfall, R.M.L.I. No date ascertainable, but believed to belong to H.M.S. Favourite or Swift, therefore, about 1769 or 1770.

In addition to the above, there is some doubt as to Capt. Patison of H.M.S. Carcass, who was taken ill on Saunders Island and was Medically Boarded and recommended to be returned home in the storeship "Experiment" by the surgeons of the Jason and Carcass, who considered that "it would be highly imprudent in him to think of remaining here in his present state of health". On the whole, I am inclined to think that the death of so notable an officer on the island would have been recorded; and as I can find no such record, assume that he duly left in the "Experiment".

Royal Marine plaque unveiled at Port Egmont



THE Commandant General of the Royal Marines, Major General David Pennefather CB OBE, recently unveiled a plaque to commemorate the men of King George III's Navy and Marines who lie buried on the hillside at Port Egmont, Saunders Island, a little way from the site of the first British settlement in the Falklands. The men were at the garrison at Port Egmont between 1766 and 1770. General Pennefather unveiled the plaque on December 7.

Museum Curator, John Smith, told *Penguin News* that there are five graves, unmarked except for simple headstones of local rock, almost concealed in the ground. As part of the Camp cemeteries refurbishment programme, which is now part of the Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust, the site has been enclosed within a ranch style post and rail fence with the cast metal plaque positioned on the northern side.

As well as being a fitting memorial to those hardier men in har-

dier times, said John, the grave site will be of additional interest to those many people who now visit the remains of the old settlement.

General Pennefather was accompanied on the visit by H E the Governor, Richard Ralph, Joan Spruce and John Smith of the museum and National Trust. The plaque was produced at the Royal Label Factory in Chippenham and the whole project made possible by the support, encouragement and enthusiasm of David and Susan Pole-Evans, and all at Saunders Island, who, despite heavy shearing commitments managed to get the fence up, painted and the plaque installed in record time; and also to former Royal Marine, Dennis Bolt, for making the wooden plinth.

Wreaths were donated by local representatives of the Royal Marines, Royal British Legion, Red Cross and Royal Naval Association.

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