

AN ARTICLE in the Argentine naval centre's Quarterly Magazine insists that HMS Exocet missile was hit by an Exocet fighter-bomber.

Other magazines, reproduce anecdotes of heroism and tragedy in the battle for the Falklands. General Mario Menéndez, the defeated Argentine commander, has issued a six-page statement to deny some of the remarks by Sir Jeremy Moore in an interview in the magazine, Gente.

It was General Menéndez's first statement in nearly a year — the last was that he would fight to the last drop of blood — and should have sounded important. But he got lost in exalting the bravery of some officers, which is bound to offend servicemen who were omitted, and he said nothing that explained his own surrender.

Argentines fantasise about the action and the politics of the war because the military still has not given them an explanation, let alone the full story.

It is a year since the landing at Port Stanley and Argentines still have not come to terms with reality. Relatives of missing soldiers are convinced that they are still alive somewhere. The Government has not denied an end to hostilities in preference that its army only just a battle, not the war. Politicians evade the issue, by speaking of sovereign rights without mention of military jungling.

In the last year, Argentina has tried to adjust the events to suit itself — and to discard them when they do not stand up to expectations. The harshness of defeat has been smoothed by the fantasy.

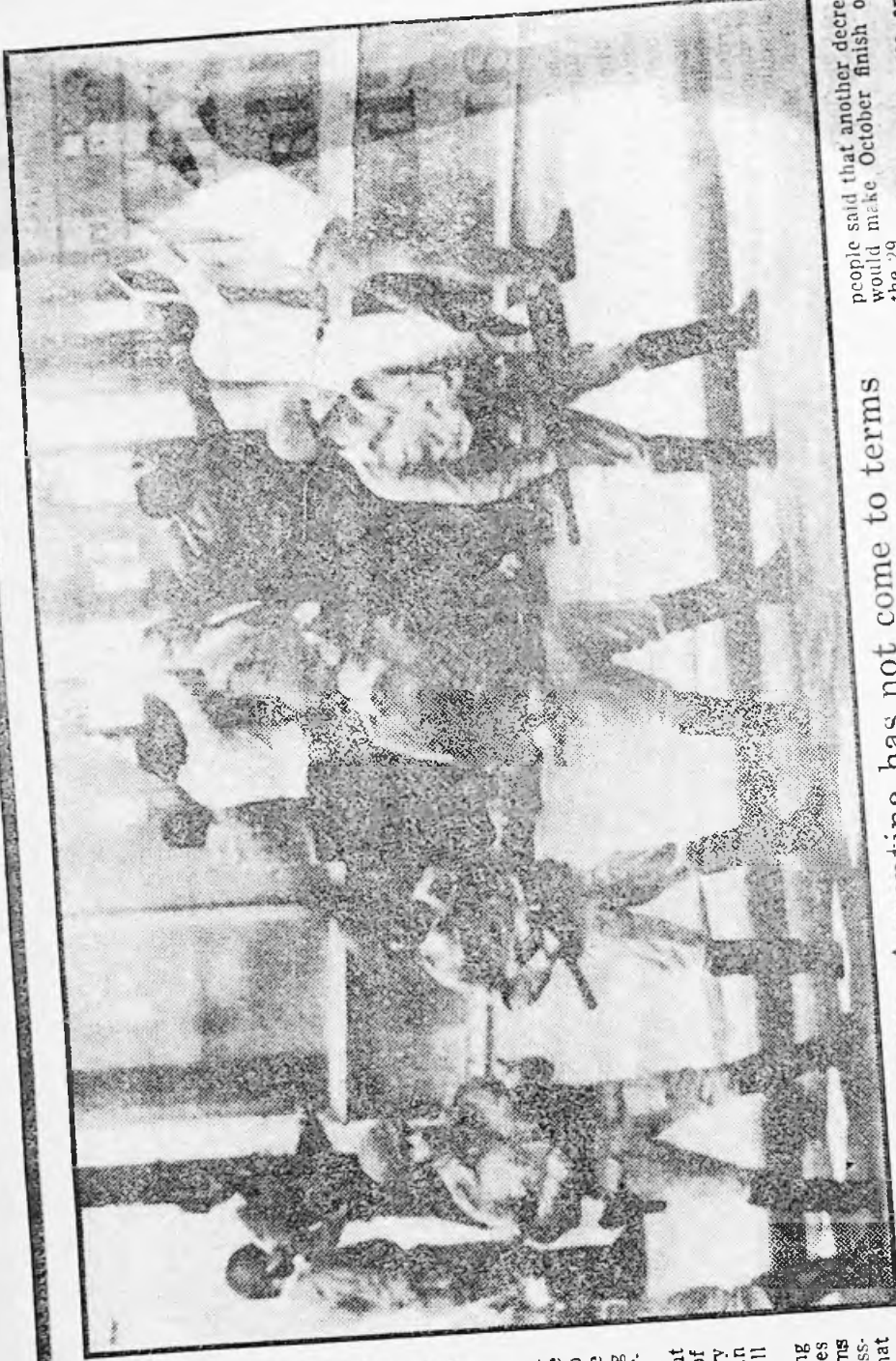
The contradictions are everywhere. Posters in the street remind people that April 2 is Malvinas Day, but the Government made next Monday a holiday so that the long weekend will help to dilute any demonstration of sentiment.

When armed forces chiefs are under too much pressure from critics of the Administration and publications are tending to be more critical, the Argentine government to try to restore by censorship what it cannot face.

The marks of the South Atlantic war to be found in Buenos Aires are the profusion of anniversary articles, an economy in ruins, and a date for elections set in haste by the remnants of a regime which, in 1976, seized power to hold it for the rest of the century.

Workers at Government House are only now cleaning and repairing the doors opening out to Plaza de Mayo, which were damaged by an irate crowd last June 15 when General Menéndez surrendered. The bronze plaque by the door, stolen by somebody in that crowd, has not been replaced. The Foreign Ministry has spent the last year obsessed with the Falklands issue to the exclusion of all other matters and it has searched for allies everywhere. The result reflects what one of Argentina's leading novelists, Ernesto Sabato, calls a "fractured country": half the ideal of being "Western and Christian." The other half wants alignment with the Third World.

President Bignone went to the Nonaligned Movement conference in New Delhi in March to draw attention to Argentina's dispressed sympathy for the cause of the Third World and at home he was labelled "misaligned." Worse was to happen: his encounter with President Castro of Cuba, who had warmly welcomed Argentine's Foreign Minister in Havana during



Argentina has not come to terms with the reality of the Falklands battle. Andrew Graham-Yooll reports

Why the Junta shuns boys who went to war

The sight of armed police repressing Buenos Aires demonstrators in 1976 (above), is in stark contrast to news of the capital's statues, like the Great Liberator—General José de San Martín (below)



many expressions that go beyond this formal statement.

The smiling face of Princess Diana has returned to magazine covers with gushing captions. A faction of the Peronist movement relaunched the banned magazine, *Primera Plana*, at the most trendy of Buenos Aires' Anglo-imitations, a place called the Village Pub.

The two bombs found at Saint Patrick's bilingual school last Friday are "intelligence cranks," or the armed forces "services" of the armed forces — entities which are suspected of all the dark deeds.

Anger is addressed at the United States, which Argentina thought to be an ally

people said that another decree would make October finish on the 29.

The military arrogance and the display of guns is still in evidence, but now it is being challenged. The armed forces are blamed for wrecking the economy and causing hunger in a country that was never short of food.

People have forgotten that, in 1976, General Videla had their support when he seized office from President María Estela Perón. People also later tried to forget, in the long "disappeared" in the night of official terror that followed. Now they are trying to forget that a year ago they thought the Malvinas were worth fighting for.

Some sociologists say that Argentines have no memory, which makes Argentina a country without history — by an accumulation of events described in the antiseptic language of an elementary schoolbook. Forgetting is a form of refuge from events whose interpretation could bring political reprisal.

Pablo Gonzalez Berges, once active in the defunct Conservative Party and now a frustrated politician without a party, said he feared that the lack of concern for the past makes Argentina's undemocratic. They forget what went before and are content to allow the return of dictatorship time and again, he said. Argentina is a country of immigrants who came here to make money, not indulge in politics.

Since the Falklands war, political debate is returning to Argentina, largely as a result of the weakening of the military. As the election campaign gathers momentum, there is a growing awareness in all the centre-left parties that the feat of the military must be pushed out of government for a long time. But such optimism is undermined by the fears that it will only take a year after the elections for the armed forces to plan another coup.

Criticism of the military has gained in intensity this year. The armed forces that arrived in government proclaiming the need for discipline and morality, are accused of unprecendented corruption.

But the future for Argentine civilian governments is bleak. Not only do they have to try to rebuild Argentina, they have to try to control the military.

Next: British wealth in a declining economy.

30/3/83 TELEGRAPH
**Relatives will sail
in mid-April**

D. Telegraph
30/3/83

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

AN Argentine ship carrying 200 relatives of soldiers killed in the Falklands war will set sail for the islands in mid-April, whether or not agreement for a visit has been reached with Britain, said Señor Osvaldo Destefanis, organiser of the proposed expedition.

A small cargo boat had already been chartered for the voyage, and conversion work providing passenger accommodation was almost complete.

Sr Destefanis, a television engineer who is president of the Centre for Volunteers for the Fatherland, has been the guiding force behind Argentine efforts to visit the Falklands.

The main aim of his group, set up in Buenos Aires last September, is to co-ordinate support for Argentina's claims to the Falklands among civilian "patriots" who have no connection with the military.

Slogans on walls

The Centre claims to be independent of the government, but many people believe it is actively encouraged by the junta.

It has a sparsely-furnished office in an unfashionable western suburb of Buenos Aires. On the walls are slogans like "We never surrendered," while nailed to a tree outside is a Union Jack carrier-bag stuffed with old newspapers and labelled "rubbish."

Although critics of the centre tend to dismiss the "volunteers" as ultra-nationalist crackpots, Sr Destefanis is obviously well-organised and determined to make the most of the war dead issue.

"We have been able to charter a boat very cheaply, thanks to sympathetic owners," he told me yesterday. "The crew formerly belonged to a boat that was sunk during the (South Atlantic) war, and they are giving their services free."

April 16 sailing

About 260 relatives of dead soldiers have asked to go on the trip, and 200 of these will be summoned to Buenos Aires in mid-April to board the ship, the name of which Sr Destefanis declined to reveal "for security reasons."

The provisional sailing date is April 16, though this may be altered if weather conditions are bad.

"Only family relatives will be going on the boat," he said. "We don't want to be tourists, or look around the islands. We just want to go to the cemetery for no more than a couple of hours, then leave."

Asked whether the Centre was really a political publicity stunt, inspired by the junta, Sr Destefanis became angry. "That's ridiculous. How can they talk of propaganda when we are dealing with the pain and sadness of families?"

ARGENTINE UNIONS FLEX MUSCLES

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

AS Argentine trade unionists crowded about the extent of a one-day general strike, called to protest against low wages and the military Government's economic policy, the Government was bracing itself for further disruption.

Encouraged by overwhelming support for Monday's 24-hour stoppage, union leaders are now hoping for a massive turnout today at a march commemorating a violent demonstration that preceded invasion of the Falklands last year.

Many observers believe the tension that followed the workers' protests on March 30 last year directly influenced General Galtieri's Junta to press ahead with the invasion of the Falklands.

The Government regards union efforts to mark the anniversary of last year's protest, which was forcibly broken up by riot police, as unnecessarily provocative.

Leader is warned

Señor Saul Ubaldini, leader of the militant wing of the General Workers Confederation (CGT), has been warned by police that his union will be held responsible for any violence that occurs during today's march.

But Señor Ubaldini has refused to be pressured into calling off the march, and there were signs yesterday that the moderate wing of the CGT was preparing to join the protest against the military regime.

Only in the northern city of Tucuman was business activity possible on Monday, and union leaders claimed that as little as 10 per cent of Argentina's workforce supported the strike.

But although the strike undeniably gained workers' support, there were few signs yesterday that the unions would win an ypolitical or economic concessions from the Government.

Señor Hector Villaveiran, Minister of Works, said the strike had changed nothing. With the Argentine economy showing no sign of serious improvement, the Government is unlikely suddenly to find itself able to satisfy union demands.

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Telegraph
30.3.83

FALKLANDERS ANGRY OVER WAR DEAD VISIT

By PATRICK WATTS in Port Stanley

FALKLAND Islanders attacked Mrs Thatcher yesterday following a Foreign Office decision to allow a group of Argentines to visit the graves of their war dead in the colony.

Councillor Terry Peck said he had been inundated with telephone calls, some demanding a demonstration while others called the Prime Minister "a traitor" for going back on her word.

Mr Peck said it was "a contradiction by Mrs Thatcher which was unacceptable, and a mockery."

He said that when the Falklands Council had been approached by the Foreign Office to approve a request by Senor Osvaldo Destefanis, leader of the Argentine "Centre for Volunteers for the Fatherland," to bring a group to the Falklands to view the graves of the Argentine dead, the Councillors had set down three conditions:

ARGENTINA had to announce a cessation of hostilities with Britain;

THE VISITORS had to undertake all formal procedures for entering the islands, including valid visas; and

ONLY close relatives of the named and known dead were to be admitted.

222 buried at Darwin

The British Government had given no indication that it had agreed to these terms, said Mr Peck.

The bodies of 222 Argentines killed during last year's conflict were buried at a cemetery at Darwin. Only about 107 had been identified; the remainder were not wearing their identity tags.

"The British Government did not accept our proposals and asked us to reconsider the situation," said Mr Peck. "We did, and they (the Argentines) should be prepared to take away their dead with them, with us having supervised their exhumation."

Mr Peck said he planned to call a public meeting.

In January, seven months after Britain recaptured the Islands from Argentina, Mrs Thatcher received a rousing welcome when she visited the colony. She was awarded the freedom of the Falklands for her "courageous, steadfast and unyielding leadership."

Red Cross channel

Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, said that if the request for the visit by Argentine relatives had come from Buenos Aires then it would have been possible for Britain to have refused, but as it had come from an individual on purely humanitarian grounds then the reaction was of a different nature.

Sr Destefanis had purposely dealt directly with the International Red Cross to avoid putting the visit in jeopardy by dealing through the Argentine government.

Sir Rex would not disclose the conditions under which the Foreign Office had agreed in principle that the Argentine visit should take place.

"Her Majesty's Government has taken our views into account. We now have to wait and iron out the details, and we have been promised that these will be passed on to us," he said.

Sir Rex did not envisage that the ship bringing the Argentines could be in the Falklands before the planned four-day visit by British dependents, which is due to begin on April 9.

It appeared that the

The Queen honours Falklands veterans

MORE veterans of the Falklands war were honoured by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

It will be exactly one year ago this weekend that Argentine troops landed on the Falkland Islands.

Lt-Col "Nicholas" Vaux received his Distinguished Service Order after leading the 42 Commando Royal Marines in operations at Mount Kent, Mount Challenger and Mount Harriet.

Mrs Diana Batt and her three children had a private audience of the Queen to receive a posthumous Distinguished Service Cross awarded to her husband, Lt-Cdr Gordon Batt.

Lt-Cdr Batt was killed on a night-flying mission over the Falklands prior to making a low-level attack.

Another member of the Royal

Marines, Capt Dennis Sparks, who received the MBE, remembered how a year ago he was in Denmark training an exercise. "Five or six days later we were on the Falklands; it was a remarkable achievement," he said.

Capt Dennis Sparks, master of the ship, received his MBE from the Queen. He was given the Civil CBE after his ship was hit four times into the battle at San Carlos water with the constant threat of air attack.

Cpl Stephen Newland, of the Marines, was awarded the Military Medal for bravery during a battle at Mount Harriet.

Cpl Chrystie Ward, one of the men Cpl Newland was attempting to assist, was also awarded the Military Medal. He led a section of 42 Commandos.

Telegraph 30.3.83

Uruguayan government had put pressure on the British to allow the Argentines into the Falklands, indicating that Montevideo might withdraw permission for the British dependents to travel through Uruguay early in April on their way to the Falklands.

If the British dependents had voyaged from the Ascension Islands, a British possession, it would have meant a long, drawn-out trip. The sea voyage from Montevideo to the Falklands would be three to four days, whereas from Ascension it would be nine or 10.

Sir Rex stressed that the Argentines would only visit Darwin.

The Argentine next of kin had been advised by the British Government previously that they could have their dead back in their own country. "We will be making this quite clear to the Argentines," he said.

approx. 28/3/82

Thatcher firm on Falklands defence

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent

A RESTATEMENT of the Government's commitment to continued defence of the Falklands was made by the Prime Minister yesterday, as she recalled how she and the Cabinet faced up to what she described as "the acid test" of the Argentine invasion a year ago.

"We have to defend them, they are British sovereign territory," she said in an interview on the B.B.C. "Analysis" radio programme.

Saying that the anniversary was "a particularly poignant day," Mrs. Thatcher recalled how she had been informed of the threatened invasion.

She said: "A year ago today, at 7 o'clock in the evening, Intelligence reported to me the Argentine fleet was on the way and it looked as if their destination would be Port Stanley. It was the acid test."

'Defending freedom'

"We talk about freedom, justice, democracy. Were we going to defend it? Even though it was 8,000 miles away? Yes, we did."

"I never had any doubt. Cabinet didn't have any doubt. The British people never had any doubt. But it was extremely important, not only for Britain but for the rest of the free world."

"The last time we did was on the Berlin airlift. We all rose to that. The Berlin airlift, South Korea. Since then, the Americans tried to keep Communism out of Vietnam but they were not successful... then it was Britain who once again came to give the lead."

Mrs. Thatcher reacted sharply when the interviewer, Michael Charlton, suggested that Britain could not afford to stay in the Falklands and to "incorporate them".

She replied: "Incorporate them? I don't understand your words. Incorporate them? We cannot afford to incorporate them? We have to defend them. That's exactly why we went down there."

"Those people are of British stock. Many of their families were there... we have to defend them. They are British sovereign territory. The people are British stock, and we have given them the right to self-determination."

WIDOWS IN PILGRIMAGE TO GRAVES

By CHARLES LAURENCE

WIDOWS and relatives of the 254 British dead from the Falklands War set out next Tuesday on their journey to visit the war graves and battlefields.

The party of 545 will start their journey at Heathrow when they board chartered British Airways jets for the 13-hour flight to Montevideo, in Uruguay.

There they will transfer directly to the cruise liner Cunard Countess, 17,495 tons, without the need for passport checks, for the voyage to the Falklands.

There will be scant opportunity for the relatives to meet the Falkland Islanders, but plans are afoot for a visit to Stanley, probably on Tuesday, April 12, the last day of the visit, where the local people are hoping to cook lunches for the visitors in their cottages.

The relatives are expected to arrive back in London on April 17.

SHIP TO RETURN

By Our Political Staff

The logistic landing ship Sir Tristram, severely damaged during the Falklands conflict, is to be towed back to Britain at the end of April, Mr Jerry Wiggin, Under-Secretary for the Armed Forces, said yesterday.

The Exocets fly again

Fortress
islands
return to
full alert



by
**HARVEY
ELLIOTT**

DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARGENTINA has bought 65 fighters to replace those lost during the Falklands war—and more are on order. And with news of the Thule raid reported yesterday Mrs Thatcher called on President Reagan not to resume arms sales to Argentina until the Argentines declare a permanent cessation of hostilities. But others are ready and willing to sell now.

A massive Argentine rearmament drive has been going on since the end of the fighting last June. Even Russian arms salesmen have been approached by the Right-Wing Junta, and have offered to sell 26 Tu 28 Fiddler supersonic interceptors.

But British intelligence believes most of the replacement aircraft have come from Israel. It is thought 24 Skyhawks and 22 Mirage 3C 'Dagger' jets are already flying under Argentine colours, together with nine Super Etendards from France and 10 Mirage 5s from Peru. France has also resumed sales of the deadly Exocet AM 39 missile which destroyed HMS Sheffield and the Atlantic Conveyor. These exclusive pictures show the new missiles fitted to Super Etendards at the Argentine base of Espora.

A new urgency has also appeared in Argentina's military training camps. Officers are pressing for greater professionalism and much less use of young conscripts.

The intelligence reports have been passed to British commanders on the Falklands with warnings that they must remain constantly alert.

The Argentine Air Force is now apparently ready to resume low level attacks with pilots trained by war survivors. They have defiantly painted their insignia on their new jets, alongside the outlines of ships claimed as wartime 'kills'—both real and imaginary.

Other weapons delivered to Argentina include hundreds of bombs, mines and anti-aircraft missiles acquired, it is believed, from Libya and Israel, as well as 50 tons of assorted arms from France.

It is expected that 10 additional Super Etendards and 20 AM 39 Exocets will be delivered by France at any time.

The Argentine Army is also reported to be re-equipping rapidly with 40 new light tanks specially prepared for use in muddy ground.

Despite the build-up, British forces on the Falklands are confident that they can repel any attack made on the islands.

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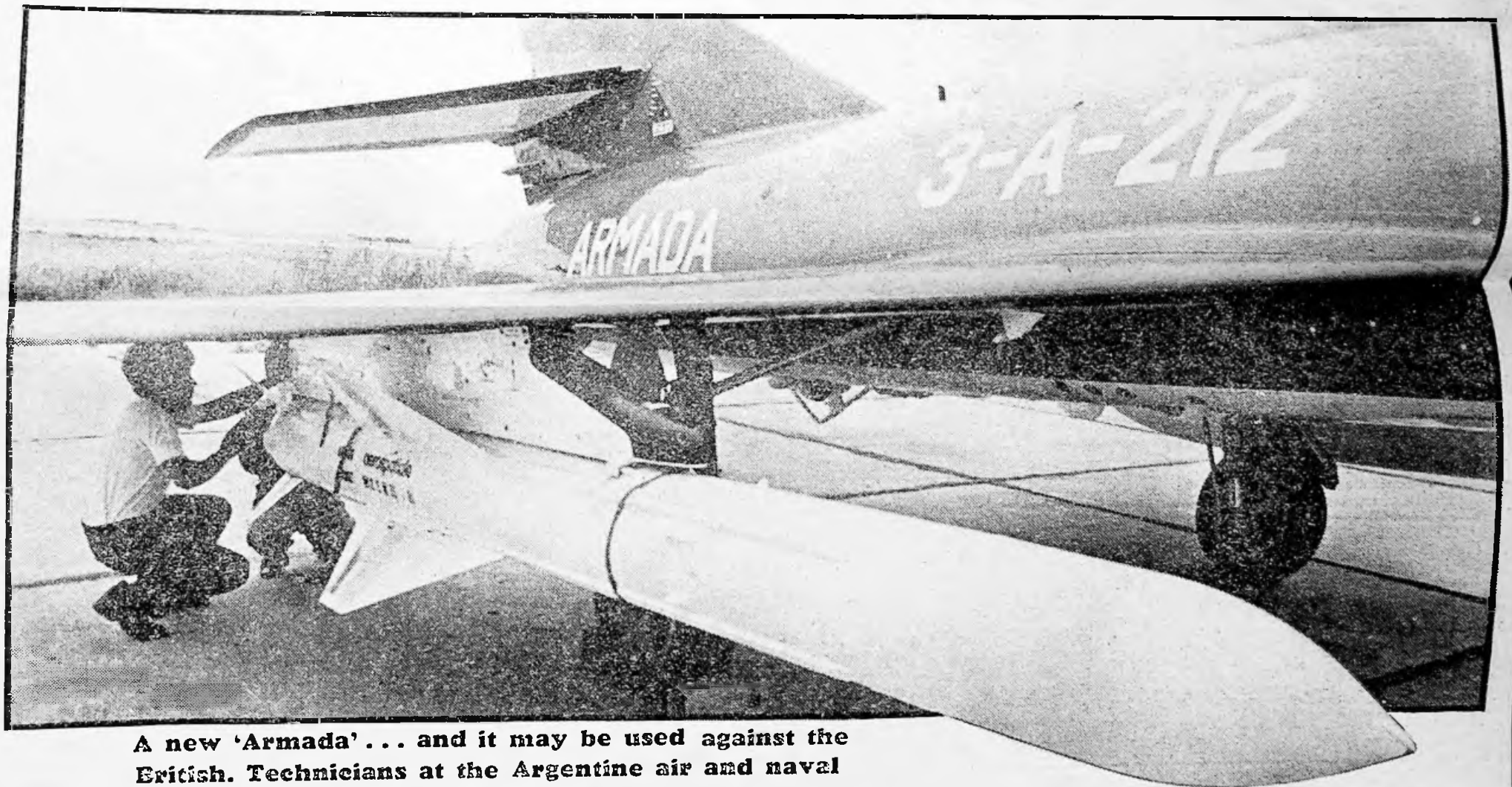
HE MAIN worry is that Argentina may decide to launch 'pin-prick' raids on the Falklands themselves — putting ashore small groups of commandos either to sabotage isolated installations or to take photographs of themselves for propaganda purposes.

British troops are on constant alert. A company of Royal Marines is shortly to join the garrison, trained especially to react instantly to any landing, however small or wherever it may come.

No one can relax — and for the foreseeable future Fortress Falklands will remain exactly that.



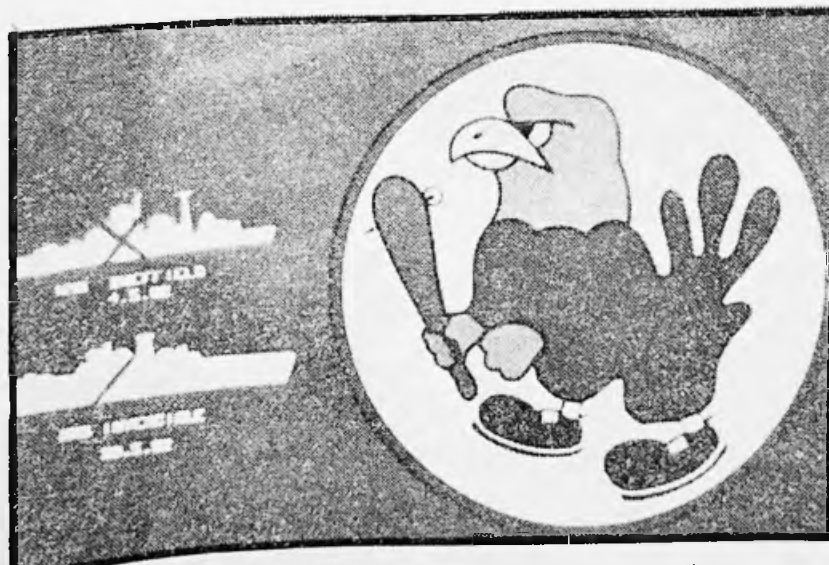
Primed ready for action... Super Etendards on a training mission equipped with Exocet missiles (circled)



A new 'Armada'... and it may be used against the British. Technicians at the Argentine air and naval base of Espora fit the deadly Exocet missile.



the threat on the tarmac



defiance... the symbols on the planes

How the
fighter
pilots
boast
of their
'kills'



Victim of the Exocet... HMS Sheffield

Chris Patten reports on the swiftly changing face of the Falkland Islands



Brian Harris

Aldershot in the South Atlantic

You don't begin a description of Venice by discussing its altitude. There are, first, one or two other less prosaic things to say. With the Falklands it is different. Unless you start by painstakingly stating the obvious, the rest of your tale drifts off into what sounds like the idlest fancy. It all appears too improbable, almost exotic, despite the climate. You look on those islands and rub your eyes in disbelief. Can it really all be true? Was it only last spring that two Argentinians were shot down amidst the saxifrage and sedum in Lady Hunt's rock garden?

So the beginning of the matter is this. It is "a faraway country", much farther away than one over which we chose not to fight 45 years ago. Its distance and the discomfort of the journey - in the belly of a Hercules with cotton wool in your ears - have not deterred a stream of recent, mostly political, visitors. Bounced off the volcanic ash tip at Ascension, 13 or 14 noisy hours see you refuelled, and sound in Stanley - no "paragon among landfalls" this, but at least there's a bed and a packet of soup at the Uplands, Go on.

Before the film came. The Falklands was a television interview subject for the passion and partisanship of a handful of aficionados, though they might not have chosen quite that word. The rest of us at Westminster left them to get on with it, occasionally pausing to listen, as we passed by, to the harrying of a Ridley or a Luce, curious perhaps a trifle amused ("a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing"), and then on to something serious like the price of gas or the vagaries of the monetary aggregates.

The fact that most of us were swaddled in ignorance was hardly a help when last March and April came. Simon Jenkins and Max

Hastings, in much the best of the library of Falklandia, rightly point an accusing finger at Westminster, where the discussion of foreign and defence issues can so often irresponsibly combine maximum prejudice with minimum knowledge. We were left twisting and turning between diplomacy, deterrence and departure. The result was disaster. The blame attaches not to this or that government but to 10 years or more of our politics. We can take refuge in collective guilt - guilt for the "accident" for the burnt and maimed.

What did they all fight for? Falklanders, naturally, honour, you and to set an example, that too ("Do you hear us, Guatemalans?") It was not a fight for an Eldorado. The Falklands have their treasures - the sea birds, the seals, the penguins - but this trove is not obviously bankable, except for the pound note it may cost to cross a settler's land and visit the king penguins' shoreline homes.

The visitor is not alone in knowing what the country is like. It has all been seen on our television screens. There are the miles of yellow-green peat, chequered with opaque ponds and an errant how and then by a rock-strewn mountain. There is the little town of Stanley straggling along the first past the red of the Anglican cathedral and the corrugated blue of Monsignor Spraggon's Catholic Church and on to the green of Government House and the brown dump of mechanical Argentinian booty beyond. There are the settlements huddled up on their distant inlets waiting for the round-up of the sheep and the arrival of the Chinook of Sea King with the post.

There is the Falkland Sound, "Bomb Alley", and the neck of land which bridges the waters of Grandtham and Choiseul, the stretch of

peat over which 2 Para fought, killed and died, where the Royal Hampshire now stand guard. They are there to ensure that history in Goose Green does not repeat itself, or more precisely that history never happens there again.

There are many more than the Hampshire about today to keep the stable door securely bolted. Helicopters clatter overhead and Phantoms and Harriers patrol above the protection zone. Squadrons of sappers dig and build from mouth to beach. Their cousins from the Ordnance Corps, butcher, frigate, submarine, the ships from trade and the fleet's royal auxiliaries, bring a touch of the Solent to the Falkland waters. Soon, as well as the servicemen, we shall have the arrival of the construction gangs to build the roads and the runways. It is quite a crowd for anywhere, a Wembley crowd for the Falklands. And watching it all from a great distance stands the Treasury, still paying the bills with at least a show of enthusiasm, as though an acid drop wouldn't melt in its mouth.

The garrison there is settling in. The sewers are going down and the Portakabins are going up. (Portakabin is the prevailing architectural style in these parts.) Before we know it, we shall see our servicemen will be returning to Stanley and San Carlos again and again and again. The Falklands bid fair to become the Aldershot of the South Atlantic: Aldershot, that is, without the sophistication and the razzmatazz.

How will all this strike the islanders? Presumably they came and stayed because they like a quiet life. With a garrison much bigger than the population, with an airport for the jets, the life is bound to change, and any change here is substantial because in the past there

has been so little. Yet I doubt if we will see the flowering of the local economy. Entrepreneurial endeavour is thin on the ground, and the ODA have only a limited number of "go-go" businessmen in stock just now. There will be a brewery and a fish and chip shop; we shall have to wait a little longer for a baker or a butcher or a cobbler or a hairdresser.

So there they are, 8,000 miles away near enough, soldiers, sailors, airmen and "kelpers" all, getting ready for winter and the cold wind from the Antarctic and the arrival of the new German destroyers and submarines at Puerto Belgrano, and the French Exocets and Israeli Mirages at Rio Gallegos and maybe the boatload of Argentinian Special Forces at Pebble Island or San Carlos or the beach at Stanley airfield.

It was all, is all, magnificent, mad and inescapable. There are some things which wisdom teaches us not to try to unravel or explain. Human reason happily has its limits, and here in the Falklands we bark our shins on them. There is nothing to be done except our duty, and to make sure that those who do our duty for us are not forgotten.

For the time being, the courage of those who fought and died, and of those for whom the fighting and dying were done, demands no less. There is no sign of options here. Yet there will come a day when courage of a different sort will be required, when reason will have to explore beyond the frontiers of today's constraints, so that we can restore a little peace and quiet to this small far-away country and resume our burdens nearer home.

The author is Conservative MP for Bath.

SPECTRUM

Next week, a year will have passed since the Argentine invasion set the Task Force in motion. In London, a new mini-bureaucracy is relearning old skills to serve the islanders

Whitehall's Falklands machine

By Peter Hennessy

On March 4, 1982, John Ure, historian, travel writer, Latin America expert and diplomat, sent a message to the encoding room of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for transmission across 8,000 miles of ocean. Addressed to Mr Rex Hunt, Governor of the Falkland Islands, it warned: "We are now perilously near the inevitable move from dialogue to confrontation."

One year, two weeks and five days later, Sir Rex Hunt has acquired a knighthood, the new title of Civil Commissioner and international fame for refusing, initially at least, to "surrender to the bloody Argies". For his part, John Ure has won the Whitehall reputation of having had "a good Franks" (the report reproduced a succession of crisp, prescient minutes penned by him). And, where last March there was one desk manned by two men in his South America Department dealing with the Falklands, there is now a free-standing Falkland Islands Department filled with the brightest the FCO can provide.

FID, as it is known, brings together in one mini-bureaucracy most of the skills at which the British excelled when a tiny group of men ran one quarter of the globe from Whitehall. Thanks to General Galtieri, John Ure, Andrew Palmer, Head of FID, and Roger Westbrook, his deputy, are obliged to blend themselves into a mixture of traditional diplomat, intelli-

gence officer, district commissioner, estate manager and salesman (The consent of Parliament and the public for the enterprise must be nurtured).

There was a time when the Colonial Office ran an excellent training programme for this kind of thing. Known as the "Devonshire Course", future district commissioners spent time at Oxford, Cambridge or London learning law, anthropology, tropical agriculture and how to build bridges. The Colonial Office disappeared in 1966. Staff of the new FID had to acquire the craft (a job for the traditional gifted all-rounder, if ever there was one) following its foundation last September, though as a Falkland Islands Unit, prior to receiving departmental status, they had been running themselves in since mid-summer.

For the moment FID has put the negotiator's art on ice. The Prime Minister and Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, have made it clear that now is not the time to resume talks with Argentina about long-term solutions in the South Atlantic. This does not mean FID has stopped thinking about them. Merely that the issue, in Whitehall parlance, is on the back-burner.

Stretching above FID is a hierarchical chain ending where the buck stops in the Prime Minister's Office. John Ure reports to his deputy secretary, Sidney Gifford. Mr Gifford reports to

Sir Anthony Acland, Head of the Diplomatic Service. Sir Antony serves Mr Pym and Cranley Onslow, the minister of state with special Falkland responsibilities.

At this point in the chain, FID obey the rules and refuse to talk about Cabinet committees. From private sources the gap can be filled. There is a Falkland Islands Cabinet Committee. It is chaired by David Goodall, an FCO deputy secretary on loan to the Cabinet Office where he runs its Overseas and Defence Secretariat.

AROUND Mr Goodall's table sit representatives from the FCO, the Ministry of Defence, the Overseas Development Administration, the Department of Trade, the Treasury and the Central Policy Review Staff, the "Think Tank". The Goodall committee pulls all the policy strands together and prepares briefs for the Overseas and Defence Cabinet Committee (OD) which Mrs Margaret Thatcher chairs. Pre-invasion, as Franks illustrated, OD devoted scant attention to the Falklands. They jostle regularly on to the agenda now. Reopening negotiations with Buenos Aires does not figure. But questions like a second airfield on the islands, the cost of the garrison and implementation of the Shackleton report on the future economic and social development of the Falklands do absorb a good deal of ministerial time.

What FID can talk about, and they do it very openly, is the nature of their workload and its priorities. Mr Ure plays down the Kiplingesque "white man's burden" and sending forth "the best ye breed" side. He prefers the phrase "Land-Rover diplomacy", but says there is much more to it than that.

Mr Palmer has prepared a priority list: "The first is to see that it does not happen again. That is why we have no shame in admitting to the defence and intelligence side of the department. The concept of deterrence in the Falklands is not as easy to write out as the concept of deterrence in the North Atlantic Treaty. It might not be the same for the maverick commander of a Mirage squadron as for a more thoughtful Argentinian in Buenos Aires".

Mr Palmer and Mrs Sara Squire have the job of keeping in touch with Michael Legge of the Ministry of Defence's defence secretariat 11 on military questions. On the intelligence aspects she deals with "the friends" whom nobody in the FCO talks about. It must be a haunting task making sure a second invasion is not launched?

"It is quite a sense of responsibility," says Mrs Squire. "Though we are not the only department in Whitehall which has got that responsibility. And it's really the troops on the ground in the Falklands who must make sure it is not going to happen again. It is the commanding officer in the Falklands who loses sleep if anybody does".

Mr Palmer's "first equal" priority is restoring normality to the Falkland Islanders themselves; though with large tracts of the islands now an extension of Aldershot, nobody in Whitehall has any illusions that the old pastoral life style can return.

"From the reconstruction point of view," says Mr Ure, "the place was just a God-awful mess. The islanders are a robust people who have had a bad shake-up and find themselves outnumbered by the garrison. We have got to help them identify the sort of society they want and help put this together".

FID's Mr Westbrook and Marcus Hope work very closely with Michael Pattison of the Overseas Development Administration's own Falkland Islands Department (set up at about the same time as its FCO equivalent) on restoring the fabric of Falklands society and building a new economy along the careful lines suggested by the Shackleton report. Both FIDs link up with the new Falkland Islands Government Office in London under Adrian Monk, a former Falkland Islands councillor. His organization is not to be confused with the Falkland Islands Office in London, under Air Commodore Brian Frow, which is an unofficial and privately financed pressure group.

FID's second task is handling the international backwash of the Argentine assault on the Falklands -

"reminding people that, for God's sake, they did it," as Mr Palmer puts it - while trying to repair financial and economic relations with Buenos Aires. The latter task is not easy. Four Argentine diplomats sit in the Brazilian Embassy in London. Four British officials, led by David Joy, do the best they can from the so-called British Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires.

FID's task three brings one to Tam Dalyell, MP, scourge of ministers over the South Atlantic. FCO wags simply call Michael Hickson's outfit the "Tam Dalyell Desk". The flood of parliamentary questions and letters from MPs has diminished, but only slightly. Mr Dalyell remains the market leader. FID must maintain support for the Cabinet's South Atlantic policy at home and abroad. It pours out briefings and information to ministers, MPs, journalists and the public in Britain and to British embassies and high commissions abroad.

There is an air of "this is the place to be" about FID, though its inmates play it down for all they are worth, not wishing to attract barbs from other parts of the FCO. Mr Ure admits that he was allowed by his superiors "to lay my hands on very good people; all of them have got reputations for being able to cut through red tape." Mr Palmer: "There is a hell of a lot of satisfaction. None of them is on the transfer list."

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPARTMENT

JOHN URE
Supervising Under Secretary

ANDREW PALMER
*Counsellor,
Head of Department*

ROGER WESTBROOK
*Counsellor,
Deputy Head of Department*

DONALD LAMONT
*First Secretary,
Argentina/Falklands policy*

Argentine; Falklands;
constitutional arrangements;
international aspects

MICHAEL HICKSON
*First Secretary,
Parliamentary/public relations*

Parliamentary questions;
briefing and speeches for
ministers; letters from MPs
and the public; Falkland
Islands public relations;
guidance on Falklands
issues to FCO posts abroad

SARA SQUIRE
*First Secretary,
Defence/Intelligence*

Arms embargoes;
intelligence liaison;
relations with the
Ministry of Defence
on security of the
Falkland Islands;
next-of-kin visits to
the islands

MARCUS HOPE
*First Secretary,
Falklands General/
Falklands Development*

Decisions arising from the
Shackleton report; Falkland
Islands development
projects; rehabilitation,
current administration
eg Falkland Islands
Government estimates;
immigration; supplies,
equipment, travel, Whitehall
secondments to the islands



Left to Right: Ivor Roberts (News Department), Sara Squire, Andrew Palmer, John Ure, Michael Hickson, Alex Smith, Donald Lamont, Bob Rayner (Absent: Roger Westbrook).

Source: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Falklands reforms aim at finding two 'MPs' to speak for islanders

From John Ezard in Port Stanley

A "Green Paper" setting out proposed constitutional reforms to make the Falkland Islands government more democratic was issued here yesterday.

It was not unlike a Westminster consultative Green Paper, except that it covered only two sides of foolscap and, instead of being sold at an exorbitant price, could be obtained free by popping in to see Peter King sweating over a duplicator in the Government secretariat office next to the army mines disposal office.

It is based on replies to questionnaires sent by 200 islanders in Stanley and the countryside, a response rate of 25 per cent of the total electorate.

Its proposals are expected to be adopted unopposed by the government here unless they are modified by further public

reaction. They will then be sent to Westminster for ratification, in the hope that this will enable the islands government to be seen as being more representative.

The central aim of the consultations was to modernise a government which, though dealing with a unit smaller than an English parish council is, to a large extent, a national government in a situation with huge international implications.

The most important proposed reform would give elected councillors a voting majority on the island's Executive Council which sits under the civil commissioner (and former governor) Sir Rex Hunt.

Sir Rex, who would lose his power to nominate two non-elected members among the council's total strength of seven, is in favour of this change because he considers the power to be undemocratic. We would, however, as the United Kingdom Government

representative retain his power of veto over decisions.

The Legislative Council would continue to elect two councillors to the Executive Council. But in a new department the whole Falklands electorate would vote a further two councillors on to the executive.

These two councillors could, in effect, claim the status of "island MPs." They could speak for the islands in emergencies like last weekend's consultations with Britain over whether Argentine next of kin should be allowed to visit the Darwin cemetery.

The Civil Commissioner, the Falklands Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary, would complete the executive council. The civil servants would have full speaking and voting rights.

The paper is unclear about whether councillors should be entitled to compensation for lost earnings while doing council work, as in Britain.

Falklands snub denied by minister

By Gareth Parry
MR CRANLEY Onslow, the Foreign Office Minister, declined to take part in a BBC World Service programme for the Falklands because he had "nothing to add" to the announcement already made in London that relatives of the Argentine war dead would be allowed to visit the islands, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

Many islanders, already furious over the Foreign Office's handling of the issue, tuned in to Tuesday's 30-minute Calling the Falklands programme hoping to hear Whitehall's explanation for allowing the visit. But all they heard was the announcer saying that the minister had declined to appear on the programme.

The spokesman yesterday denied that the minister's refusal was a snub to the islanders. Falkland Council members had been told of Britain's decision on Monday. "It was part of Sir Rex Hunt's job to convey that news to the islanders," said the spokesman.

Mr Onslow had turned down many opportunities to speak on such programmes, and declined the World Service broadcast "because he didn't feel he had anything to add to the announcement already made," said the spokesman.

'Guardian'

30/3/83

BOOKS PAGE



by Peter Grosvenor

Tragedy of Galtieri's bruised, embittered cannon fodder

THE FALKLANDS was a squalid war for the Argentines conducted in a heartless and flippant manner.

On June 18, 1982, the day thousands of defeated young Argentine POWs were returned on the Canberra (those that weren't killed) a jaunty TV announcer in Buenos Aires declared with an unashamed smile: "This is a great day for us Argentines. Our national football team is playing today in Spain, and we all have high hopes..."

At that point Argentinian journalist Daniel Kon decided it was time to find out what

had really happened at the front from the mouths of Los Chicos—the young Argentine conscripts.

LOS CHICOS (NEL, £2.95) is published this week. Saturday is the anniversary of the Argentinian invasion. It is a shabby tale of officers who lead from the rear, deserted their men under heavy fire, and did little to ensure that they got proper food, even though ample rations had been brought onto the island.

One middle class boy, Guillermo told Kon: "The clothes were adequate when it was still autumn, but later

in the winter, wearing those clothes on sentry duty, you just froze solid. We weren't prepared enough mentally, we weren't trained for war."

They fed themselves by shooting sheep, were even reduced to drinking water from puddles.

They were lied to by their commanders about the strength of the British: "I lost several friends, and what hurts me most is that those kids died in a war for which they weren't trained."

One feels sorry for the conscripts and a bitter contempt for their strutting, benedicted generals who treated their men so vilely.



Facing the reality of the Falklands Front

D/Star 31/3/83

FALKLANDS Day that changed Britain

A YEAR ago today General Galtieri was preparing to give the order which forced Britain into the Falklands War.

On April 2, the junta's fleet, invasion troops aboard, reached the islands.

It was the opening of an 11-week conflict which led to the deaths of 255 Britons and over 200 Argentines troops, with many more wounded on both sides.

The final cost of the war to the United Kingdom will be a billion pounds—plus a commitment to spend £31 million on the islands in the next six years.

And the conflict changed the face of politics in Britain.

It led to the resignation of the then Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, and transformed unpopular Margaret Thatcher into a national heroine.

At Westminster that phenomenon was called The Falklands Factor.



Facing defeat—Argentine troops on the islands

It still applies. This week a Mori Poll cited Mrs Thatcher's handling of the Falklands crisis as one of the main reasons why people still said they would vote Tory.

It could still play a crucial part in the next General Election.

Despite mass unemployment Mrs Thatcher is still seen as the woman who achieved victory against the odds—given that the islands are 8,000 miles away.

She has a "certificate" to prove that her Government was not to blame for Argentina's unprovoked aggression.

This was the verdict of the Franks Committee after its six-month inquiry.

MATTHEW COADY

● A Family At War—Centre Pages

STAR SPECIAL ON THE FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN ONE YEAR ON

Pilgrimage of love

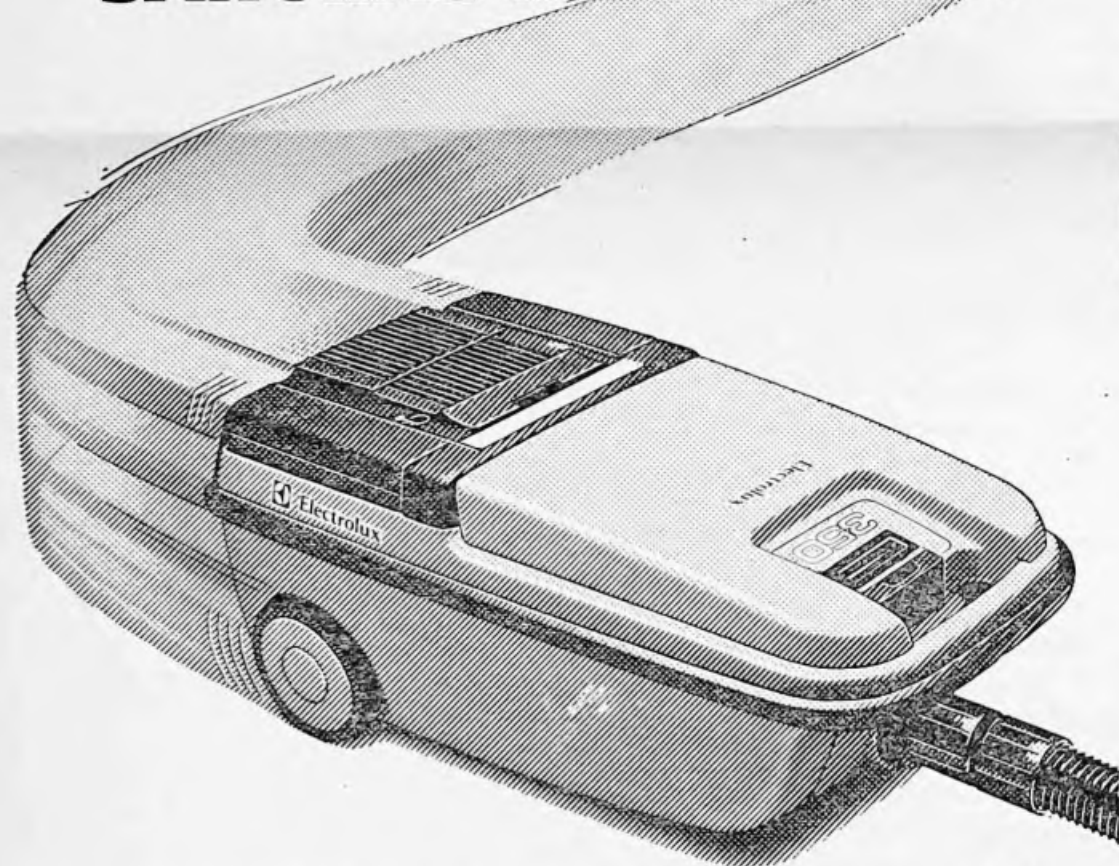
ON April 2 last year Britain went to war ... the war that won back the Falkland Islands from Argentine invaders. It lasted 74 days during which Britain's Task Force fought many heroic battles on land, sea and air. The triumph and tragedy of the Falk-

lands war is reflected in these two stories: the young son who never came back and the one who did, a wiser and better man for it. Two moving accounts of a war. ONE YEAR ON...



Flashback ... HMS Sheffield ablaze after the Exocet attack that killed Neil

**You've never seen
a cleaner
shift like this before.**



Carpet cleaning can be a bit like an obstacle course, but you'll find the new Electrolux 350, with its light compact body, simply glides in and out of the tightest corners.

In short, it takes the drag out of carpet cleaning.

On the other hand, it's rock steady when you want it to be, for those awkward jobs like cleaning stairs.

For all its compactness, we've given the 350 a powerful

770w motor, and an enormous dust bag (40% bigger than the bag you'll find in conventional cylinder cleaners), which means you clean more, change less.

It all adds up to the greater care Electrolux take of your carpets ... and you.

The Electrolux 350 is made in Britain and comes with a year's full guarantee. Electrolux Bonus Cover option extends protection up to five years.

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ELECTROLUX LTD LUTON BEDS



Tragic reminder ... Joan with a photograph of her son Neil

Pictures: TONY SAPIANO

No grave to visit but Joan will see the islands her son died for

A MOTHER'S instinct told Joan Goodrum that her son was dead.

At 2.30 on Tuesday, May 4, last year, she turned to her husband, Mike, and said: "I don't think Neil will be coming home."

At that time she had no reason to believe any harm had befallen her son in the Falk-

lands. But for the next six hours, Mrs. Goodrum, 47, kept repeating: "I won't see Neil again." At work, friends on a Ford production line told her to stop being so silly. But she insisted on listening to the 9 p.m.

By Hugh Whitrow

news on her portable radio which she had taken to work.

The headlines confirmed her dreadful suspicions — Neil's ship, HMS Sheffield, had been hit by an Exocet missile and members of the crew had been killed.

It wasn't until noon the following day that a Naval chaplain knocked at her home in Hedge Hill, Enfield, North London, with the news that Neil was one of Sheffield's 20 victims.

"He didn't have to tell me," sighed Mrs. Goodrum yesterday. "I had known in my own mind that Neil was going to die. It was a strange feeling. It just came over me all of a sudden."

"For days after I was

In a terrible state. I just couldn't accept it. The doctor tells me I won't fully recover for perhaps three years."

"Often I get weepy days. It's then that I think he's going to come bouncing through the front door to cheer me up."

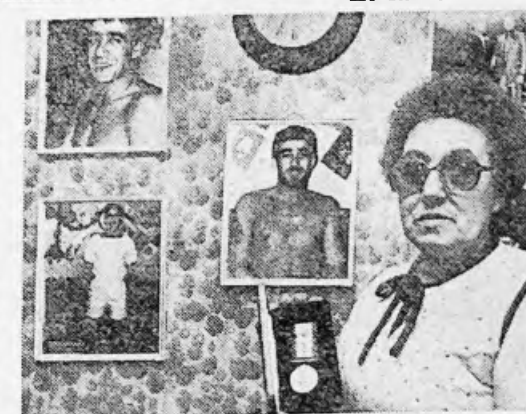
Looking at the 21 framed pictures of her handsome son on her living room walls, Mrs. Goodrum added: "He was a really smashing boy."

Waste

"Everybody liked him. There were more than 600 people at a memorial service for him."

"His death is such a terrible waste. But I don't feel bitter or angry. No one can take away the pride I have for him."

"I just hope we hold on to those islands. If



The war medal that Neil never wore

we give them up, after my son died for them, I will be terribly sad."

Neil, 21, was one of eight cooks killed on Sheffield when the galleys burst into a ball of flame. His body was never recovered.

Mrs. Goodrum knows there is no grave for her to visit in the Falklands.

But on Tuesday, accompanied by her 19-year-old daughter, Tina, son Adrian, 17, and Neil's fiancée Patricia Currie, she will set off on the Falklands Pilgrimage.

More than 600 rela-

tives of those killed during the war are flying to Montevideo and then taking a four-day voyage to the islands to pay their last respects.

The visit will be particularly emotional for 25-year-old Patricia from Hull. She and Neil were to have been married after he returned from the Falklands.

Mrs. Goodrum said: "It's going to be a very sad occasion. But I must go."

"I know there's no grave. But at least I'll be able to see what Neil died for."

Steve, who spent two



Steve ... 'I learned to be more tolerant' Picture: PETER WILCOCK

**I'D
DO
THE
SAME
AGAIN**

—by a son who came home from the war

EIGHT months after his joyful return from the Falklands, Steve Martin has no regrets about going to war.

He said: "I would do the same tomorrow. I would even volunteer." Steve, now 20, is the senior aircraftman whose "Dear Mum" letters home touched readers' hearts when they were reproduced in the Daily Star last June.

His account of his experiences on board the supply ship Fort Austin and under canvas at San Carlos Bay eloquently captured the emotions of thousands of ordinary servicemen under fire.

In one letter he wrote: "I never thought I would say I'm proud to be British, but I am."

Routine

During the war Steve, a ground crew member, had to man a shipboard machine gun and used his personal SLR rifle against Argentinian aircraft.

Since the tearful reunion his mum, Alice, stepfather, Frank Kane, and his two brothers and a sister, Steve has been trying to cope with the anti-climax of routine duties.

For several weeks there was the pride of re-living his wartime role in a series of public open-days.

Then it was back to exercises, first on Salisbury Plain, later in Norway.

Steve, who spent two

DEAR MUM...

The very private war of Senior Aircraftman Stephen Kane, aged 19



His letters in the Star

By George Dearsley

years as a cabinet maker before signing up for nine years in 1980, said: "It hasn't been a great problem to re-adjust."

"Most of the lads treated the war as a job they were trained for and just had to do."

Steve is a refuelling expert with the RAF's Tactical Supply Wing and is based at RAF Stnford. He said: "I still enjoy the job I do, which is everything."

But he confessed: "What I learned from the conflict was to appreciate just what I have — my home, family and friends."

He has a girlfriend but no plans to settle down yet. His ambitions are simply to progress in his career and win promotion to corporal.

Meanwhile, when his three-week leave ends he will go straight from his home in Runcorn, Cheshire, to another exercise in Denmark.

Steve said: "The Falklands also taught me how to get on better with my colleagues."

"When there are five of you in a tent 12ft-square you have to have a bit of give and take."

"Despite the horror and the sadness, the Falklands was enjoyable. It was good to know you could do your job when the pressure was on."

Daily Mail 31/3/83

PAGE 6

Daily Mail COMMENT

That blind spot again

BEREAVED relatives of the Argentine soldiers killed in the Falklands want to visit their graves.

That is what we are led to believe. And the instinctive humane response, we suspect, of most men and women in Britain is that these Argentine families should be allowed to make their sad journey to the Falklands.

The British Foreign Office, therefore, is right to try to clear the way for the trip.

But they have gone about it at the FO in their usual thick-skinned way. They have been far more diplomatically attuned to the feelings of those who grieve in the Argentine than they have been ready to make allowances for the sensitivities of the Falkland Islanders themselves.

The Kelpers are bitter and suspicious. They do not feel that they have been properly consulted.

Their emotions are absolutely understandable. The first anniversary of the Argentine invasion is this very week. Why, they ask, should anything be done to soothe Argentine sensibilities until the regime in Buenos Aires agrees to a formal cessation of hostilities?

For the Falklanders this is no matter of international protocol. It conditions their very existence. They are still beleaguered economically. The menace—neither war nor peace—from Argentina imposes upon their simple lifestyle a vast military presence.

We fought a war to liberate the Falklands and uphold the right of the islanders to remain under the protection of the British Crown.

But do the aloof gentlemen at our Foreign Office really care what the people of the Falklands think?

They never used to. And deep down the attitude of the FO to the Falklanders seems to remain much what it was before the tragedy, the sacrifice and the heroism of last year. That is to say an attitude at once patronising and arrogant.

Fly the Antarctic flag

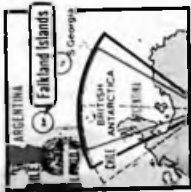
The best future for the Falkland Islands, a year after Argentina's unsuccessful invasion, is within the Antarctic treaty

In the immediate wake of the bloody war, and the failed diplomatic scurrings, of a year ago neither Britain nor Argentina was likely to make sensible noises about the Falklands. Neither has done so. Britain is pursuing a policy of "Fortress Falklands", arming the islands to their teeth and making miserable the life of the islanders, who will cost about £1m a head each to defend in the next three or four years alone. Argentina has been using part of the money squeezed from the international banks (who thought it was going to be used to service the huge \$40 billion debt that Argentina already owes) to take deliveries of new warships and Exocet missiles.

The best that can be said of this mutual lunacy is that it cannot last. Mrs Thatcher will not move this side of the general election in which the Falklands factor will rightly help her. Having fought and won a just war, Britain could not reasonably be asked to return at once to the negotiating table, as the United Nations wished. In Buenos Aires, the Falklands defeat—contrary to all those dire American predictions—has produced one good result: a promised return to democracy, with the first election for 10 years in October.

Once these two elections are over, the mutual friends of Britain and Argentina should quietly urge them to start talking to each other, with a new agenda. The old ideas of a transfer of sovereignty or of a leaseback arrangement died in the blood at Port Stanley. The best new idea would be to incorporate the Falklands into the area covered by the Antarctic treaty.

The treaty covers that inhospitable, but potentially



rich, area of 5.4m square miles around the south pole. Its members include 14 countries which have competing claims so complicated and so bogus (like those on the Falklands) that, mutually recognising their absurdity, they get on splendidly well. The treaty, which began in 1961, is reviewable in 1991—just the right, unemotional date for Britain and Argentina, which are both signatories to it, to work towards.

The treaty's rules are simple and have been scrupulously followed by all signatories, including the Soviet Union and the United States: no military activity in the area; no pushing of competing claims; everybody to lend a helping hand with scientific research and exploration; if there is mineral wealth to be developed, at least let's keep it to ourselves rather than have the United Nations breathing down our necks. For the Falklands, such a treaty would be a godsend.

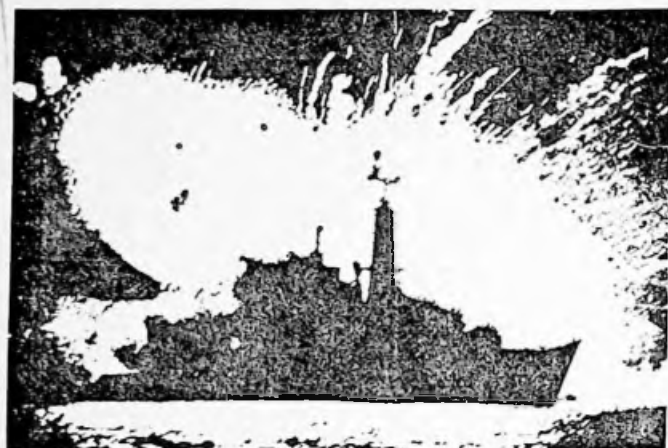
There is one minor geographical snag. The islands are not in the Antarctic. But the area could easily be increased by a segment that would reach up from the icecap to incorporate them. See map above. And the Antarctic needs the Falklands as a staging post, for which the islands are conveniently placed: a staging post that could be used by any of the treaty's signatories, whether Argentina or Britain, Norway or New Zealand. This would be a lifestyle more in keeping with the Falkland islanders' traditions. The expensive infrastructure Britain is pouring into the islands would become useful in a way that would suit the islanders (choose your own design) and cause no harm to the British. And the British war could fly over Port Stanley. And this

have at last a sensible outcome.

2-8 April 1983

'The Economist'

How Britain moved from phony war to follow the Task Force in tragedy and triumph



BRITISH RESPONSE TO INVASION STUNNED WORLD

By A. J. McILROY

who sailed from Portsmouth on April 5 aboard the carrier *Invincible* and who was with the 2nd Bn Scots Guards on Tumbledown Mountain.

NINE days and 800 miles out of Port Stanley, the Royal Navy's ice-patrol ship *Endurance*, 3,600 tons, put ashore a 23-strong landing force of Marine Commandos on South Georgia.

The mission entrusted to Lt Keith Mills, 22, officer-in-command, was to deal with the Argentine scrap merchants illegally on the inhospitable British island isolated in the Antarctic wilderness.

It was March 31, a year ago, and as soon as the Marines were ashore, *Endurance* was acting on urgent new orders.

Capt. Nick Barker had received a signal ordering *Endurance* to make full steam back to Stanley. An Argentine invasion of the Falklands looked imminent.

Ominous signs of crisis gradually surfacing back at home appeared to have been confirmed.

The violation of British territory by a motley rag-bag of scrap merchants was part of something much bigger intended by Gen. Galtieri, the Argentine President in Buenos Aires.

View on reverses

Within three days, South Georgia and the Falklands had fallen, marines were prisoners, and a *de facto* state of war was emerging between Britain and Argentina.

Gen. Galtieri had clearly calculated that these reverses 8,000 miles away on a group of little-known islands not as big

war" as Mr Haig, then American Secretary of State, undertook his doomed shuttle diplomacy between London, Buenos Aires and Washington.

Until Vulcans and Harriers bombed Stanley Airfield on May 1, few believed there would be actual war.

Doubts were removed a day later when a British nuclear submarine sank Argentina's only battle cruiser, the *Belgrano*, 11,000 tons, with the loss of hundreds of Argentine lives.

The Argentinians struck back on May 4. Super *Etendards* of Gen. Galtieri's Air Force attacked the Task Force.

The attack, with French-designed Exocet missiles, sank the destroyer *Sheffield*, 3,500 tons, among warships on "picket" duty as part of a 50-miles-distant outer protective screen around the carriers.

Only the exceptional, disciplined reaction of *Sheffield's* 280 crew kept the death toll down to 20.

Between May 21 and May 26 Gen. Galtieri threw his air force against the beachhead at San Carlos waters, hitting 11 ships, including Atlantic Conveyor taken out by an Exocet with the loss of helicopters in her cargo vital to the land forces.

The Argentine land forces, superior in numbers (some 15,000 were eventually prisoners in the Stanley garrison) and equipment, were entrenched in high ground and mountains between the beachhead and Stanley 50 miles away.

Against overwhelming odds 2 Para captured Goose Green in what Major Gen. Jeremy Moore, Commander Land Forces, said was the decisive first victory for which he had been looking "to destroy the Argentine's belief that victory could ever be theirs."

'Yomping' to Stanley

This triumph set the pattern for what was to follow with the paras and marines showing astonishing endurance in "yomping" to Stanley.

A terrible price for victory was paid at Fitzroy on June 8 where 5 Infantry Brigade had made a spectacular advance from the beachhead.

The Argentine Air Force caught the Royal Fleet Auxiliary landing crafts Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram in daylight as they were in the process of landing supplies and companies of Welsh Guards.

Fifty-three British soldiers were killed and 46 wounded.

Two Victoria Crosses headed 800 awards for the South Atlantic war, reflecting the contribution to the campaign of the military and the civilians who created and sustained the 8,000-mile long supply link between Britain and the Task Force front line.

The price paid by Britain was more than 250 dead. The Argentinians lost three times this number at least.



The Union flag being raised at San Carlos exactly seven weeks after the Argentine invasion.

Lesson about quality of the men

By Maj-Gen Edward Fursdon
Defence Correspondent

IN 1982 British ground forces not only won a South Atlantic campaign but also gained a major new peacetime commitment. Now, a year later, how does it all look — and what have they gained from that unique experience?

Dominating all else is the simple message that there is nothing wrong with the nation's young men, given the right leadership and equipment. They are of magnificent quality, as was so often shown on the testing anvil of sub-zero battle in the South Atlantic.

Next the experience proved the value of hard, realistic military fitness and peacetime adventurous training. This resulted in those concerned being men-

tally and physically prepared to survive not just the battle, but also the appalling conditions.

There were really no new fundamental military lessons to come out of the Falklands, but the campaign showed up many old ones which had been forgotten, and even discarded as being no longer of relevance to the 1980s.

Ignoring these old highlighted lessons at its peril, the Army has not changed its basic techniques post-Falklands; rather it has, having studied the evidence, sharpened its imperative.

In this respect, for instance, it is looking anew at the use of direct fire anti-tank weapons, and at the scale of heavy infantry weapons required in support of the assault.

The men's clothing, especially boots and gloves must be proof against cold and wet. His load carrier must be easily and

quickly adjustable so he can efficiently execute his battle task of the moment.

The relentless, demoralising power of sustained artillery was something learnt. Now there must be a leap forward in the means of getting enough gun ammunition available for any future crisis.

Progressive cuts have drastically pruned the Army's small specialist "fringe" units which are expensive in peacetime. But come an "out of area" operation, as last year, they are wanted instantly.

In the wider, Army, context, the often criticised regimental system has been given a new lease of life.

Units survived, and won, the toughest Falklands' battles such as Goose Green, Mount Longdon and Mount Tumbledown because they had a regimental fighting tradition and fought amongst friends.

RAF heed need for operational change

By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER Air Correspondent

TWELVE months ago it was inconceivable that by May 1 a Vulcan due for retirement would be bombing an island's runway 8,000 miles from Britain.

When the Task Force's duty became clear, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH published an air assessment.

This said that, although the Navy's Sea Harriers were outnumbered by more than 10 to one, the Fleet should have no insuperable difficulties in keeping local air superiority on its way from South Georgia to the Falklands.

The difficulty would come in attempting an air-protected landing within range of Argentine Mirages, Skyhawks and Exocet-carrying Super *Etendards*.

The subsequent loss of the destroyers *Sheffield*, *Coventry*, the Atlantic Conveyor and other vessels such as the two landing ships in Bluff Cove, brought home just how difficult it was to maintain air cover in every corner of the campaign.

The air battle lasted six weeks, interrupted only by darkness and spells of bad weather. By June 14 Argentina's air power had been crippled by attrition, with recently admitted losses of 58 air crew. The bravery of the pilots earned international respect.

Harriers effective

The final score underlined the skill of Britain's fighters and the effectiveness of their weapons, particularly the Harrier jump jet.

The Defence Ministry's paper on the campaign says that that an estimated 117 Argentine aircraft were destroyed for the loss of 34 British aircraft, of which only 22 were brought down by enemy fire.

Not all the facts of the war have been disclosed. Argentina claims, for instance, that spies on the mainland made up for Britain's lack of airborne early warning by reporting the take-off of every Argentinian aircraft setting out for their hour-long flights to the battle area.

In the same report there is criticism of Argentina's lack of foresight in not taking equipment with which to build air base facilities for combat aircraft. The 400-mile flight from the mainland to the island gave Britain's ship-borne Harriers an important range advantage.

The lessons which the RAF is

heeding for operational improvement are described in a report by Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, who directed all RAF air operations in the South Atlantic.

Sir John agrees that the strength of the three Services is to be found in their high quality and training, but he points to the dangers of over-specialisation and less-than-perfect standards of joint operational expertise.

There was no ready-made joint headquarters for a national contingency outside the Nato area. Plans for this are being drawn up, he said.

The campaign revealed the potential of in-flight refuelling. Sir John is convinced that all military aircraft, including some helicopters, should be capable of refuelling in the air.

There were fuel and parking space limitations at Ascension Island, which was vulnerable to attack. For flexibility and survival, the RAF must continue with its policy of dispersal and point defence of all vulnerable airfields.

The Falklands was a small operation compared to a general war yet it severely tested manpower limits in some fields. Reserve manpower needs to be re-examined, particularly in the RAF.

The Vulcan range, which caused Argentina to hold back Mirage fighters for mainland air defence as well as helping to stop high performance combat operations from Port Stanley airfield, underlined the importance of new weapons for crippling runways and anti-radar operations.

Better communications

Weaknesses revealed in the operation of RAF Harriers from Navy ships in support of the Army demand improved joint service training, more liaison and better communications.

Room is also seen for improvement in the use of helicopters, more of which are needed with a better self-defence capability.

Finally, Sir John says the campaign came about because of a failure of deterrence. The West must be careful not to make a similar mistake in Europe.

"It is up to all of us to convince those who do not wish to face reality that we must not leave the West's doors unbolted and its defences neglected."

From the mists of the South Atlantic, a challenge to British resolve and a test for Thatcher

Iron Lady's answer to Galtieri swift and decisive

By JAMES WIGHTMAN
Political Correspondent

IN the high emotion of the emergency Falklands debate on Saturday, April 4, 1982, Mr Enoch Powell summoned the Prime Minister's attention across the Commons chamber and reminded her of the pride she took in her reputation as "the Iron Lady."

The hour had come, he told her, to show what metal she was made of. Mrs Thatcher, white-faced from the shock of the Argentine invasion, stared back at Mr Powell and nodded in acknowledgment of his message.

She gave her reply over the next two-and-a-half months in the political leadership which directed the successful campaign by the Task Force to recover the occupied islands.

Dominating figure

The political consequence, which may yet help the Conservatives to win the next General Election, was a strong increase in public support for herself and the Government. She became arguably the most dominating figure in British politics since the 1939-45 war.

Her control of the Cabinet was strengthened. Other political leaders were overshadowed.

Mrs Thatcher quickly made her intentions known to the so-called "War Cabinet," com-

posed of a few senior Ministers, who met with Service chiefs almost daily throughout the Falklands crisis.

"We will do everything we can to negotiate a peaceful settlement," she told her colleagues, "but if the Argentinians do not agree to withdraw their troops by the time the Task Force arrives we will drive them off by force."

By the time the Task Force set off for the Falklands the Prime Minister had had to accept the resignation of Lord Carrington as Foreign Secretary over what he called the "national humiliation" of the invasion. She replaced him with Mr Pym.

Differences between the Prime Minister and the new Foreign Secretary were apparent throughout the campaign, she appearing more aggressive than he did. Mr Whitelaw, deputy leader, often had to use his conciliatory talents.

Mr Nott also offered to resign as Defence Secretary, but Mrs Thatcher refused to accept it. Mr Nott made a disastrous speech to the emergency Saturday sitting and, though he saw the Services eventually victorious, the Falklands ordeal sapped his enthusiasm for politics.

Later he announced that, as had been his intention since before the Falklands invasion, he would leave Westminster at the next General Election and return to the City.

Throughout the campaign the

Prime Minister was able to claim majority Commons support for the Government's policies, although that backing diminished the nearer the Task Force came to entering battle on the Falklands.

In the first debate Mr Foot gave Labour's approval for the despatch of the Task Force, although he added that the Government did not have a blank cheque over what military action it could take. Towards the climax of the campaign he sounded less supportive, urging the Government to do more to seek a peaceful settlement through the United Nations.

'Pacifist wing'

He had trouble from his own backbenchers, with strong criticism of the Prime Minister coming from what became known as the "pacifist wing." The Prime Minister remains adamant against reopening discussions with the Argentine about the future sovereignty of the Falklands.

Labour and the other parties had hoped that the Prime Minister's Falklands popularity might be diminished by the Franks Inquiry which investigated the events leading up to the Argentine invasion. But the inquiry exonerated Mrs Thatcher and the Government.

After the Argentine surrender, the Prime Minister told the Commons on June 15, 1982, that the liberation of the islands by the Task Force had been "boldly planned, bravely executed and brilliantly accomplished." Ministerial colleagues said that the way to victory had been set by her own leadership, courage and sheer stamina.



Mrs Thatcher



Ex-President Galtieri

FO official heads still on shoulders

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

ONE year after the Falklands invasion and the ensuing inquest delivered the harshest blow to its self-esteem that it has ever experienced, the Foreign Office gives every outward sign of having returned to its old imperturbability.

Three Ministerial heads, including Lord Carrington's, may have rolled in exemplary atonement, but official heads remain securely on their shoulders.

The Franks Committee, which delved through the evidence to find where responsibility for the disaster lay, decided it was the diplomatic equivalent of an Act of God.

Officialdom was absolved. Mr John Urry, Superintending Under-Secretary of the South American Department, which included the Falklands, remains in the post with increased responsibilities.

He is also in overall control of the new Falkland Islands Department, with two counsellors and four first secretaries replacing the desk manned by two men before the crisis.

Other changes are subtle, but not entirely atmospheric.

Mrs Thatcher now has a special foreign affairs adviser in the shape of Sir Anthony Parsons, a former Foreign Office official, within belling call.

The Joint Intelligence Committee, formerly within the ambit of the Foreign Office and chaired by one of its senior members, has been transferred on the recommendation of Franks at No. 10.

Looked at structurally, the developments produced in the Foreign Office by the Falklands have been the defensive growth of the new Falklands Islands Department and a sort of sideways infiltration across Downing Street into No. 10.

But one does not have to scratch very deep to find that collectively the Foreign Office has by no means recovered its nerve.

Almost any official, high or low, will admit privately that their Falklands Factor was the demoralisation caused by an avalanche of Parliamentary and Press criticism that attacked not just the handling of the Falklands incident but the attitudes and even traditions that were deemed responsible.



The strangest year

A YEAR ago Argentina invaded the Falklands. Today, **Daily Telegraph** Correspondents look back on perhaps the strangest weeks in Britain's post-war history.

PROPHETIC WORDS CAME TRUE AS INVASION DAWNED

By KENNETH CLARKE

Set deep in the South Atlantic, some 500 miles from the tip of South America, the Falklands lie on the brink of a new and exciting period of change, becoming less isolated and attracting more interest from the outside world ...

IAN J. STRANGE in his 1981 book, *The Falkland Islands*, could not have known how prophetic that introduction was.

He wrote that no Falkland Islander wished to take on Argentine nationality as a way of ending the sovereignty dispute with his nearest neighbour.

"Nor," he added, "do hundreds of Argentines who have visited the Falklands expect this, for they have seen at first hand how difficult it would be at a human level."

Tragically, a year ago, a military clique in Buenos Aires decided to impose that sovereignty by force. I and three other British journalists witnessed that aggression.

Sea ideal for assault

It seemed especially bleak in the early hours of that April morning and the South Atlantic chill struck deep as we waited, still half disbelieving. An invasion? Surely that was something the Argentines blustered about, not actually did.

Soon the world was to learn different. The sea round the rocky Falklands coast was calm. The invaders had surprise, minimal opposition, and only 500 miles to go. Conditions were ideal for a seaborne assault.

The lights of Stanley were out as it gradually sank in with the "kelpers" that this time Argentina meant business. All the talking, all the diplomatic shuttling and goh nowhere. The military junta in Buenos Aires had acted to take the "Malvinas."

The early warnings had been either disbelieved or ignored in London and now it was too late. "The silly buggers mean it," said the Governor, Mr Rex (now Sir Rex) Hunt to Royal Marines' majors Mike Norman and Gary Noot.

70 defenders

Major Norman had arrived in the Falklands with 40 men only a couple of days earlier to relieve Major Noot's garrison. It was itself under-strength, as the regular Falklands garrison. So as Argentina's own Marine Corps sailed closer, some 70 lightly-armed British soldiers deployed and organised their limited resources.

Government House was to be the site of the Marines' last stand and Mr Hunt, who had already broadcast over Falklands Radio warning the incredulous islanders that the invasion was on, and only the UN Security Council could inter-

vene, declared a State of Emergency.

It has to be said that the Argentine operation was smooth and professional, carried out by regulars, not the wretched conscripts who were later poured into the Falklands, barely trained, ill-equipped and atrociously officered, and soon to be hopelessly outclassed by the British.

Our Marines, who knew they could be annihilated by a numerical superiority and greater firepower, were ready to fight to the last round.

The actual battle raged for only three hours, until about 9.00 a.m. Throughout, the islanders called into the radio station, manned by Patrick Watts, reporting what they could see and hear.

Mr Hunt's calm was never ruffled; his morale never flagged until, finally fearing huge casualties among civilian charges and the gallant Royal Marines, he decided to give in.

Even as he did so, Mr Hunt warned the Argentine commanders they had acted illegally and must expect British retaliation. He also refused to shake hands with them.

Garrison on alert

Admiral Carlos Busser, commander of the Argentine Marine Corps, later paid tribute to the courage of the British soldiers, and of Mr Hunt, but no amount of fine words could compensate for the sad sight of them being stripped of their weapons and forced to lie, hands over heads, on the road outside Government House.

I and the other journalists were expelled from the Falklands to Argentina and reported the South Atlantic crisis from a frequently hostile enemy capital, Buenos Aires, where news that a British Task Force had sailed from Portsmouth caused amazement.

Argentina still has not formally declared an end to hostilities in the South Atlantic, and its claim to Falklands sovereignty will not be yielded.

Former President Galtieri said, two days after Britain retook Port Stanley, that Argentina would never give up its struggle. Such pronouncements, even by such a discredited leader, make it imperative for the British garrison on the Falklands to be permanently alert.

'Yomping' to Stanley with the Marines

By CHARLES LAURENCE

(who sailed with the Task Force aboard Canberra and
"Yomped" across East Falkland with 45 Commando).

THE helicopter lifted off into the swirling grey mist over the South Atlantic, banked steeply, and left the great white hulk of the liner Canberra steadily receding into little more than another fleck on a turbulent sea.

Canberra had been home for six weeks and leaving her was the final signal for "go." I, along with the other reporters attached to the 3 Brigade landing force, were "cross-decking" to assault ships to join the men with whom we would be running the Falklands beaches.

It was just four days later that the 650 men of 45 Commando, that I was now with, assembled well before dawn on the greasy grey loading deck of the Royal Fleet Auxillary Stromness, as she rolled through the last few miles of the Total Exclusion Zone.

It was May 21. D-Day for the Falklands War.

For the first time, I too was fully equipped in Commando battle dress, morphine capsule and all. From now on, I had to be a Marine as well as a journalist.

The 40ft drop down the

scramble net into the landing craft was terrifying. The wallowing craft was cold and uncomfortable.

But the first step onto the rocky shore, in a running crouch, was truly exhilarating.

For the next six days, we dug trenches and fought the battle of Bomb Alley, air raid after air raid on the shipping in San Carlos Water.

During the weeks of planning for the land campaign, no one had reckoned on the "yomp." We should have been charging across East Falkland in helicopters, but the unloading of the Atlantic Conveyor with its cargo of Chinooks and Wessex's put an end to that.

There was simply no option but to "yomp"—Marine slang for a march over rough country with full kit.

The Commandos and I were equally surprised when, 60 miles later, I was still with them as we hauled up the final slope to the assault base for Stanley on Mount Kent.

At the end of the yomp was the battle for Stanley and a sense of relief that at least most of us were still there to wait restlessly for the passage home.

The Times 31/3/83

Falklands memorial

From Mrs Anne Cantacuzino

Sir, I was both shocked and saddened when I saw a photograph today of the figure of Britannia which is to form part of the war memorial in Port Stanley.

It would be so much more fitting for a stone cross, the symbol of sacrifice and reconciliation, to be the memorial to that tragic war.

I feel that the brave men who died were doing their duty, and both they and their families would not want a triumphal figure in the Napoleonic style.

Yours faithfully,

ANNE CANTACUZINO

11 Pembroke Studios,

Pembroke Gardens, W8.

March 27

300 Argentines ready to visit Falkland graves

From Andrew Thompson
Buenos Aires

About 300 relatives of Argentine soldiers killed in the Falklands conflict are to visit their graves, setting out in a chartered ship on or around April 16, it was stated here. The announcement came after news that the British Foreign Office had agreed to the visit as long as it was supervised by the International Red Cross.

Senior Oswaldo Destafanis, president of the Centre of Volunteers for the Motherland, who has been organizing the visit, said that the relatives would be taken to the islands on a merchant ship belonging to a local company and crewed by former members of the Rio Carcaraña, which was sunk during the war by British forces.

Leading article, page 15

Archbishop supports Argentina visit

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, yesterday supported the visit to Argentina by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard.

The bishop will visit Buenos Aires next month to welcome Argentine bishops into the Anglican Communion. There has been criticism of the visit, including some by Mr George Thornton, Tory MP for Liverpool, Garston.

Archbishop Worlock said: "The announcement of Bishop Sheppard's projected visit to Argentina for the inauguration of a new province of the

Anglican Communion in Latin America has produced some harsh comments, which were quite uncalled for."

The *New Scientist* magazine disclosed yesterday that Argentina may be equipped next spring with a new type of homing torpedo that "sleeps" on the seabed for up to two years waiting for a target ship to come into range. A Swiss company has been commissioned to develop and build the remote controlled weapon, codenamed *Telemine*, at a cost of £60m, it says.

Leading article, page 15

The Times 31/3/83

Ronald Butt

A clerical bomb under democracy

The British Council of Churches is not exactly a democratic body. With the principal and honourable exception of the part of the Church of England contingent (elected by the General Synod) many of the members of the BCC are simply appointees of their church caucuses or are ex-officio members of one sort or another.

Yet when it speaks and acts it is often taken as having some sort of collective moral authority, which is why it may come as something of a shock to ordinary Christian congregations to learn that last week the BCC chose to receive, note and commend for study by their churches and by individual Christians a document advocating law-breaking civil disobedience by the churches to achieve nuclear disarmament.

This report was the work of a left-wing Presbyterian theologian and minister, Mr Steven Mackie. Its underlying attitude towards parliamentary democracy deserves only contempt. Yet those who wanted to oppose it felt it would be tactically unwise to do more than join the abstainers (who included the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Scotland). They knew that in a vote to refer the document to the BCC they would be outnumbered and feared that a positive refusal to receive this lamentable invitation to law-breaking would seem to add to its status.

Since the BCC was meeting at St Andrews, its Easter gift to the "peace movement" propaganda campaign was hardly noticed south of the border but this does not diminish its potential significance.

Mr Mackie's report, frankly entitled *Civil Disobedience as Christian Obedience*, starts from the assertion that there is now "for the first time within the British churches a large body of opinion totally opposed to the use of nuclear arms, and doubtful about the morality of nuclear deterrence."

How, precisely, Mr Mackie has calculated this is not explained; we do not know what weight he gives to the pressure groups that increasingly make church policy as compared with the weight given to the mass of ordinary congregations and their ministers. Mr Mackie himself concedes, however, that the peace movement "does not at present constitute a sufficient majority to achieve the radical change in defence policy it demands."

So, he argues, "political pressure is required, a change of government, and in all probability a long process of education . . .". There follows a complex argument in support of the right (or duty) of non-violent civil disobedience, and its legitimacy in a democracy, with particular reference to Gandhi and his tradition.

Mr Mackie concedes, however, that the majority of British people, whatever they might think about civil disobedience against an invader or a tyranny, would "probably" regard it as "illegitimate and reprehensible in a democracy". But he thinks that this ignores the place of civil disobedience in our history and cites the suffragettes

(regardless of the fact that they did not have the vote, whereas nuclear disarmers do).

Having made the obvious enough point that it would be hard to maintain on the legal grounds that there are no circumstances in which civil disobedience is permissible, he acknowledges that those who advocate civil disobedience here in relation to the nuclear deterrent do not feel as strongly about the corrupt state as the anti-Vietnam war protesters did in the US. But, he adds revealingly, some here do see the link between nuclear defence and "other 'disquieting tendencies' in our society over South Africa, Ireland, ethnic minorities and national security."

We should therefore consider whether we are developing into a national security state which Christians should oppose; whether British parliamentary institutions are, from lack of proportional representation, so "inflexible" that they exclude minority views - which blandly ignores the fact that the Labour Party is committed to unilateralism.

So Mr Mackie recommends that the churches, as employers, should act illegally, if requested by employees, and refuse a proportion of PAYE to the state in respect of nuclear arms spending, even though the churches might be liable themselves and might be brought into political conflict with the state.

"Clearly the issue of civil disobedience is one that the churches cannot avoid much longer." They should also "look more carefully at the general question of civil disobedience and the circumstances in which it might become a significant option in British society."

But where does it end? Does it embrace Mrs Thatcher's economic, education, anti-inflation, industrial relations policies - all of which are no doubt offensive to Mr Mackie and his friends?

Everyone has his own different list of things he would like not to pay tax on. As one speaker at St Andrews pointed out, what about those who do not want to pay taxes for NHS abortions? (Since the Act for NHS abortions which will forever commemorate Mr David Steel's name became law, there have been two million abortions.) But where does such action lead except the tyranny of anarchy or of a dominant minority?

Of course, all men and women are ultimately under conscience and some may for conscience, have to refuse obedience to the state (or the church) and risk the consequences. For some people, refusing to press a nuclear button is in that category. But for a minority in a democracy to use illegal pressure to break the will of the majority is to open a floodgate to tyranny.

A minority has no right to hijack the sensitive process of democratic decisions by which collective views are evolved on what are agonizing questions for most people. Least of all has a clerical minority which cannot clearly distinguish its theological from its political motivation the right to claim to take from Caesar as though it were God.

D. Telegraph
31 March 1983

Thatcher firm on Falklands defence

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent

A RESTATEMENT of the Government's commitment to continued defence of the Falklands was made by the Prime Minister yesterday as she recalled how she and the Cabinet faced up to what she described as "the acid test" of the Argentine invasion a year ago.

"We have to defend them, they are British sovereign territory," she said in an interview on the BBC "Analysis" radio programme.

Saying that the anniversary was "a particularly poignant day," Mrs Thatcher recalled how she had been informed of the threatened invasion.

She said: "A year ago today, at 7 o'clock in the evening, intelligence reported to me the Argentine fleet was on the way and it looked as if their destination would be Port Stanley. It was the acid test."

'Defending freedom'

"We talk about freedom, justice, democracy. Were we going to defend it? Even though it was 8,000 miles away? Yes, we did."

"I never had any doubt. Cabinet didn't have any doubt. The British people never had any doubt. But it was extremely important, not only for Britain but for the rest of the free world."

"The last time we did was on the Berlin airlift. We all rose to that. The Berlin airlift, South Korea. Since then, the Americans tried to keep Communism out of Vietnam but they were not successful . . . then it was Britain who once again came to give the lead."

Mrs Thatcher reacted sharply when the interviewer, Michael Charlton, suggested that Britain could not afford to stay in the Falklands and to "incorporate them".

She replied: "Incorporate them. I don't understand your words. Incorporate them? We cannot afford to incorporate them? We have to defend them. That's exactly why we went down there."

"Those people are of British stock. Many of their families were there . . . we have to defend them. They are British sovereign territory. The people are British stock, and we have given them the right to self-determination."

QUEST TO SETTLE

The Falkland Islands Government office in London has had about 3,000 applications from would-be settlers since last summer. But the diminutive size of the islands' economy means very few have any chance of going there.

Falklands Memories—Pp 6 & 7;
Navy's Role Secure and Junta Bans Demos—Back Page.

WIDOWS IN PILGRIMAGE TO GRAVES

By CHARLES LAURENCE

WIDOWS and relatives of the 254 British dead from the Falklands War set out next Tuesday on their journey to visit the war graves and battlefields.

The party of 545 will start their journey at Heathrow when they board chartered British Airways jets for the 13-hour flight to Montevideo, in Uruguay.

There they will transfer directly to the cruise liner Cunard Countess, 17,495 tons, without the need for passport checks, for the voyage to the Falklands.

There will be scant opportunity for the relatives to meet the Falkland Islanders, but plans are afoot for a visit to Stanley, probably on Tuesday, April 12, the last day of the visit, where the local people are hoping to cook lunches for the visitors in their cottages.

The relatives are expected to arrive back in London on April 17.

SHIP TO RETURN

By Our Political Staff

The landing ship Sir Tristram, severely damaged during the Falklands conflict, is to be towed back to Britain at the end of April, Mr Jerry Wiggin, Under-Secretary for the Armed Forces, said yesterday.

31 March 1983

Argentina reviews a war on BBC video

By Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires

IN THE spartan rooms of the local Peronist party headquarters in Buenos Aires last week a BBC television news film was shown and generally approved.

"Very objective. It doesn't revere Mrs Thatcher and it shows us what a mess Galtieri got us in," said Luis, a militant of many years. "Next to him 'companera' Silvia was mute, her eyes streaming with tears—whether of sadness or rage one couldn't tell."

Along with a group of about 100 other activists—students, unionists, and old pensioners—Luis and Silvia had just sat through a showing of "Task Force South," a video of the Falklands war made by the BBC last year.

Watching the tape was an act of political defiance. One year after Argentine troops prepared to invade the Falkland islands, the question of why Argentina went to war and why it lost has not been answered by the military authorities. In the absence of official explanations, Argentines have continued to demand satisfaction.

"Task Force gives only some of the answers, but it shows a great deal more than anything we've ever been given here," Luis commented.

Scenes of the huge British fleet sailing from Southampton, the troops training before landing at San Carlos Bay, the battle for Port Stanley, and finally the surrender, are all familiar to an American or European audience. But for the Argentines, the video offers the first visual confirmation that there was more to the war than the bogus vision offered by the state-controlled TV.

In the heated debate that followed the film's showing it was clear that Luis and Silvia were not the only ones genuinely surprised by the surge of patriotism that accompanied the task force's departure. "Are those really civilians waving those flags?" asked one of the audience.

The blatant inequality between the British and Argentine soldiers, in terms of training and equipment—also provoked amazement—although the overriding emotion was one of bitterness at the ease with which the paratroopers had managed to make their way to Port Stanley. "The most honourable thing that General Menendez could have done would have been to shoot his own brains out," said one Peronist.

But perhaps the biggest revelation of the video for those present was in its crude record of the reality of war, being—prisoners of war, being searched, soldiers with their legs blown off, a young surgeon extracting a bullet from a mass of blood.

None of this was seen by Argentine civilians last year. On Argentine TV, the British were invisible, while the Argentine conscripts were well fed, smiling, and always on their way to victory. The Falklands war is now history, but the Peronists were as shocked as if they had just lived it. "Poor boys, poor boys," a woman kept repeating as she buried her head in her hands.

But no emotion, however great, seemed sufficient to convince anyone of the justice of the British cause. They thought the BBC had shown itself rather sparse in backing grounding the Argentine sovereignty claim over the islands.

Luis said: "The Malvinas will be Argentine sooner or later, though we should put our own house in order first."

Feelings such as these have followed Task Force South in its rounds of Buenos Aires. With the approach of the first anniversary of the invasion on Saturday, copies of the film have defied police checks and spread uncontrollably through the streets of the capital.

Once it was only the privileged few—mainly certain military officers and rich Argentine tourists on holiday in the Uruguayan sea resort of Punta Del Este—who could catch a glimpse of the "other side of the war." Today the "Malvinas show," as the BBC film has become known, has become a social event.

The film has been shown during cocktail parties or after dinner. It is also a central part of a "hearts and minds" campaign being conducted by multinational companies in the wake of the Falklands war. Faced with a resurgence of nationalism, managers are encouraged to show their workers that the British were not so bad after all.

Interest in the film has predictably provoked an upsurge in video piracy and good business too at the small number of shops in Buenos Aires that hire out video equipment.

Some "show" organisers have managed to get an original copy of Task Force while on a trip to Europe. But the majority, like the Peronist group this week, have opted for the local version.

The conscripts: 'We belong to a generation branded by frustration, violence and chaos'

du9.

Buenos Aires

One year on, April 2 1982 – the day Argentina invaded the Falklands – remains an ambiguous symbol in the country's national conscience. At one and the same time it represents the pursuit of sovereignty and a spectacular miscalculation; national unity and the descent into chaos; a new Third World identity and ideological confusion.

"It was madness. It went beyond the real possibilities of our country. No one had given us a mandate to ignore the United Nations charter. But it could have gone down in history as an act of daring initiative, had it been used rationally. And the opportunity was there: it was a negotiable issue. That was what the UN initiatives, Haig, and Belaunde was all about," says Señor Oscar Camilion, who was Foreign Minister before Señor Costa Mendez.

For Señor Camilion, the upshot of the South Atlantic crisis was that "the armed forces were left out of the action as institutions capable of governing the country in the long term. The adventure of a fascist dictatorship under General Galtieri and his economic team, which wanted a superconcentration of the power of the financial sector, was cut short. But one year later, no social or political sector has occupied the power vacuum. So the future is still uncertain".

While most Argentines are intensely critical of General Galtieri's motivations and timing in "Operation Rosario", as the invasion was code named, they insist that the recovery of the islands was, and remains a national cause. Señor Camilion, whose political party, the Movement for Integration and Development (MID), made its criticisms known in April last year, remembers that he and his colleagues were treated as traitors.

Señor Ernesto Sabato, one of Argentina's most prominent novelists, insists: "When Mrs Thatcher said the conflict was the struggle between a democracy and a dictatorship she used a vulgar



In opposition, but politicians such as Aldo Ferrer, left, and Fernando de la Rúa share the ultimate objective of the deposed Galtieri, right.

sophism. This was and is the struggle between imperialism and an entire nation which defends its rights. Men and children, workers and intellectuals, all want the liberation of the Malvinas. And he who is saying this is a writer who is an enemy of the military dictatorship we suffer. I am also someone who feels a profound admiration for Britain's philosophers and great poets and writers. I have nothing against the British people; I have something against Mrs Thatcher's imperialist policies".

The same combination of criticism against the regime and Britain comes from the "kids", the young conscripts who fought in the war. The Malvinas war veterans centre recently said "We belong to a generation branded by frustration, violence, and chaos... even though we are against violence we supported the fight we were in because it was a just cause against a historic enemy of the Argentine nation".

Peronist politicians emphasize the importance of nationalism, and a non-aligned foreign policy. They are not prepared to concede that Argentina was wrong to have taken the islands by force, but they do use the experience to attack the military. "The armed forces have shown they are incapable of ruling the country and that they cannot fight", Señor Deolindo Bittel said recently.

But perhaps the greatest confusion exists within the armed forces themselves. The trauma of defeat is still very fresh, and coupled with the failure of the military government it is a heavy burden to bear. Many officers complain that Argentines now see the conduct of the war as one long series of bungles. They point out that there were mistakes, but also some professional successes, particularly in the case of the air force and naval action.

Military thinking is difficult to fathom, but many officers now see the return to barracks as inevitable, and want to rescue their professional reputation. It is clear that one strand of thinking does not rule out renewed military action at some point in the future, although for the moment this is unlikely.

In practice, part of the current Government's strategy is to keep Britain guessing, and thus force the Government in London to spend large amounts of money on maintaining a fully alert garrison on the islands. It is hoped that this will eventually become highly unpopular with the British taxpayer.

Señor Camilion is not convinced by this. "Maintaining a *de facto* cessation of hostilities, rather than a formal cessation, does not make sense. Hostilities ended, and we should recognize it. The argument that current policies force Britain to spend a lot of money is naive. The

garrison is obviously very costly, but it creates a bureaucracy and vested interests to perpetuate it".

As for the future, the vast majority of politicians want a diplomatic solution. Señor Aldo Ferrer, of the Intransigent Party, says: "Argentina will have to use all the diplomatic tools it can bring to bear – because I don't think we can fall into a position of again invoking military force. We have to find other ways to recover our historic rights over the islands."

Most also insist that Argentina must, at all costs, return to democracy, although they recognize that the road ahead is hard and uncertain. "If this country ever again has to enter an armed conflict, and I hope it will never happen, then the decision on what to do must be taken only by the National Congress, the representatives of the people," Señor Ferrer says. "The decision cannot be taken by a small group of people operating on the margin of the law."

Señor Fernando De La Rúa, a presidential hopeful from the Radical Party, says: "I see the future of the Malvinas under effective Argentine sovereignty, achieved through peaceful negotiations, where the world will make the British Government understand that the era of colonialism has ended for ever."

Señor Camilion puts the future in a wider context. "We cannot pursue our goals on the Malvinas at a faster rate than our own economic, political, diplomatic and legal-institutional recovery," he argues. He suggests a start could be made in bilateral relations by concrete discussions on the foreign debt. "We are important debtors on the London Eurodollar markets, and I fear that no one is coming to grips with the world financial crisis. We have common interests overcoming this problem".

The overall image is that Argentina is a terribly weakened country suffering its deepest economic and political crisis, which was only in part caused by the war.

Andrew Thompson

A year after the Falklands invasion, a view from London and Buenos Aires

It will always be Mrs Thatcher's war. It would not have happened without her. Lord Franks may have been excessively forgiving of the part played by her style of government in the war's disastrous preliminaries. Yet even her worshippers have underrated her role in its successful conclusion. It was not just a primitive clash of ships and men. It was an almost medieval clash of wills between its two chief protagonists. Admiral Anaya not been effectively leading the junta in Buenos Aires and Mrs Thatcher the Cabinet in London, there would have been no invasion and no task force.

Drawing lessons a year after a cataclysm is dangerous. As Walpole said, the ringing of bells can so swiftly become the wringing of hands. More than 900 people died in the South Atlantic war, 255 of them British. The British taxpayer forfeited some £1,600m on the war alone, worth hundreds of millions more in annual support to the islands' defence and development indefinitely. Such horrific costs incurred on any project would normally demand searching inquiry and justification. Yet in the age of statistics and investigations, war is the one time when the merchants of the incalculable can raid the public purse with impunity.

The first lesson of this strange war must therefore be that sensible men and women can indeed put such costs in the scales of international justice and consider them worthwhile. They argue that there are few instances in the modern world of the limited exercise of military power in pursuit of a sound principle. In 1982 Britain supplied one with consummate success in the cause of self-determination. The war was fought against considerable odds (the logistical advantage was always with Argentina). Few could deny that the world is a safer place as a result. And if the response is safer by not much, or not much that is measurable, then so what? In such an equation of world order, cost is a residual item.

Such affirmations, of course, can be those of the warmonger and the profligate. But unless the determined pursuit of justice is to be considered meaningless for being unquantifiable, then the example Britain set, in intention and execution, in the South Atlantic cannot be discounted. Nor can such concepts as national self-respect and a reinvigorated belief in Britain's skill and efficiency be dismissed as the mere vapours of politicians because they appear in no ledger at the Treasury.

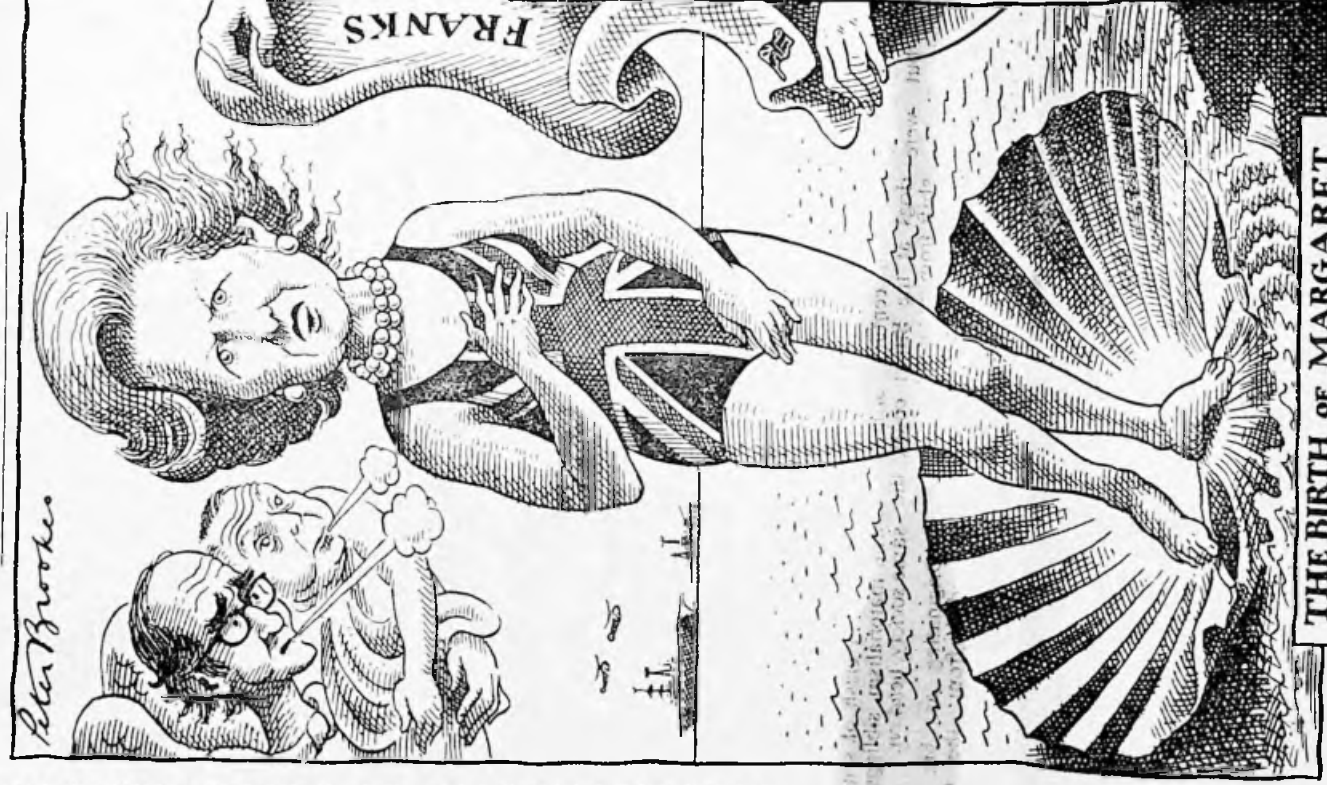
Occasionally, those in public life must grasp these abstractions and analyse their worth alongside the indices of national growth or decline. It may be odious that only war nowadays seems to offer such an occasion. Yet the benefits of the Falklands war are regarded as having outweighed its costs, both nationally and internationally. I believe that these costs can never be treated as a residual item and that in this case the equation has been a close-run thing. The calculation is by no means over.

The second lesson of the war is very different but equally incomplete. Mrs Thatcher went into the Falklands campaign apparently the least popular British leader since Suez. Given the scale of the recession, this was not surprising, but it severely weakened her political authority – even leaving her vulnerable, the previous October, to an incipient party coup. She emerged from the war impregnable and has remained so ever since. From being her party's most considerable electoral liability, she has become its greatest asset.

Wars are not meant to secure the survival of governments and it would be dreadful if every democratic leader took a leaf out of the Falklands book. After the Argentine invasion, the task force was certainly

The birth of the Thatcher factor

by Simon Jenkins



THE BIRTH OF MARGARET

discussed by the British Cabinet with its political fate in the forefront of its collective mind. But at the time, no one seriously viewed the sending of the force as an act of war; more as an escalation of deterrence.

Had the risks been properly presented to ministers, together with the likely casualties, most of them certainly would have thought twice, including probably Mrs Thatcher. Yet the fact that the Falklands expedition was undertaken for some of the wrong reasons, and with an almost cavalier disregard of risk, made it no less right.

From the moment the task force sailed, Mrs Thatcher emerged from the morass of factional government to achieve an extraordinary dominance over her colleagues and the government machine. This dominance was not readily granted. Within days of the formation of her war cabinet, who was at loggerheads with her new Foreign Secretary, Mr Francis Pym, as she had long been at loggerheads with its other key figure

Mr John Nott. Yet none of those close to her had the political status to condition, let alone contradict, her conduct of the war.

She was not always the most consistent – witness her waverings on the Peruvian plan – but she was always the central driving force: it was "she who must be persuaded" on any course of action. And her dominance was one of decisiveness not, as Eden's was at Suez, of hesitation. No one during the ten weeks of the campaign ever had to wait for a decision.

This sense of Mrs Thatcher as a Prime Minister in absolute command – a command she never achieved during 1979-81 – was communicated swiftly both to those involved in the war and to the wider public.

Although fuelled by a sense of national outrage, the war was not universally popular in Britain (it was more so in the US). Opinion polls showed strong support for the task force, but as a deterrent, not as a

weapon of war. There was no initial majority for spending blood to save the Falklands. Much of the nation's intellectual, political and bureaucratic establishment was covertly or overtly sceptical – though hindsight and victory might have it otherwise. At first the adventure worried and divided the nation.

It was therefore a solitary Mrs Thatcher who sent the task force on its way, initially abetted only by Sir Henry Leach of the Navy (whose story has yet to be told). It was she who fought the war and she who deserves most credit for winning it. She personified the transatlantic concept of "strong-leadership government".

Despite some appearances, Mrs Thatcher is not an ideological politician: such leaders are very rare and act from deeper reserves of intellectual self-confidence than she possesses. She is the antithesis, a leader of intuition. She would accept Burke's dictum that "politics should be adjusted not to human reasonings but to human nature". The Falklands war was the quintessential act of political intuition. It required no election, no legislation, no inquiry, no Cabinet discussion worth the name. It was one of the most definitive acts of prime ministerial rule Britain has seen this century.

I believe it is this display of positive generation rather than the fact of victory, that underlies the "Falkland spirit". It is a display which will not necessarily be to Mrs Thatcher's long-term advantage. The Falklands success rekindled the public's belief in the capacity of government to achieve stated aims.

Mrs Thatcher cajoled and whipped the apparatus of her oft-abused bureaucracy to move mountains last year. So much, people might think, for her protestations at the importance of the state and the need to "get it off the backs of the individual". The public saw what government could do when stung into action. The Falkland spirit is now not one of retrospection but of anticipation.

Mrs Thatcher, like many previous prime ministers, has sought to respond to this anticipation. She has already attempted to repatriate the commitment of her war machine to the home front, to help her face such challenges as unemployment, uncompetitiveness and what she perceives as a loss of national cohesion. As Harold Wilson invoked the Dunkirk spirit to help with the export drive, she invoked the Falkland spirit against last summer's striking railwaymen. The attempt seemed crude and inappropriate at the time: the complexities of economic and industrial management cannot be treated to the braying trumpets and banging drums of war.

Yet the public expectation was aroused. The war unlocked a conviction that government "can do", which transcended and still transcends normal party political allegiance. That is why Mrs Thatcher is still considered the best leader to cope with unemployment. The war proved that even the most pedestrian civil service can have its cynical assumptions blasted aside by an assertion of strong individual leadership.

It was not the proverbial dogs of war which tasted blood last year, it was a public sceptical of a prime minister's inability to honour a commitment when she really wants to. Any reading of the last Tory manifesto shows that Mrs Thatcher still has commitments aplenty. She has herself called the bluff of her impotence to deliver. The Falklands spirit will prove a hard tastmaster.

Simon Jenkins is political editor of *The Economist* and co-author of *The Battle for the Falklands*

'Guardian'

31 March 1982

Argentine plan for Falklands operation

From Andrew Graham-Yooll
in Buenos Aires

Argentine army and air force officers expect orders to stage some form of military action against the British garrison in the Falklands during late May or early June.

Officer sources said there could be an attempt to land un-armed aircraft on the islands as a symbolic gesture of a full-scale attack using Mirage or Super Etendard fighters.

There is no indication on what form the operation could take, but sources here said it would be primarily aimed at drawing public attention away from the anniversary of Argentina's surrender on June 14.

It could be limited to sending aircraft into British radar range at short intervals. While the planes would immediately return home, they would cause the frequent scrambling of British aircraft in the Falklands.

Every scramble is an enormous cost; Argentina is well

aware that the cost of the Falklands garrison is a politically sensitive issue in Britain.

Other sources say that Argentina could stage raids early in May, one year after the sinking of the Belgrano and the start of the bombing of Port Stanley. However, they attribute these plans to a caucus of middle-rank officers acting independently.

It appears almost certain that the anniversary of the Argentine landing at Port Stanley will not be used for any action against the islands.

Police banned a demonstration planned for this weekend by the Centre of Ex-combatants in the Malvinas, an organisation of conscripts who fought in the islands last year.

This appears to confirm the impression that the Bignone Government wants to keep the anniversary as quiet as possible.

Why Junta shuns soldiers, page 10; Falklands "Green Paper," page 2

Falklands snub denied by minister

By Gareth Parry

MR CRANLEY Onslow, the Foreign Office Minister, declined to take part in a BBC World Service programme for the Falklands because he had "nothing to add" to the announcement already made in London that relatives of the Argentine war dead would be allowed to visit the islands, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

Many islanders, already furious over the Foreign Office's handling of the issue, tuned in to Tuesday's 30-minute Calling the Falklands programme hoping to hear Whitehall's explanation for allowing the visit. But all they heard was the announcer saying that the minister had declined to appear on the programme.

The spokesman yesterday denied that the minister's refusal was a snub to the islanders. Falkland Council members had been told of Britain's decision on Monday. "It was part of Sir Rex Hunt's job to convey that news to the islanders," said the spokesman.

Mr Onslow had turned down many opportunities to speak on such programmes, and declined the World Service broadcast "because he didn't feel he had anything to add to the announcement already made," said the spokesman.

Falklands reforms aim at finding two 'MPs' to speak for islanders

From John Ezard
in Port Stanley

A "Green Paper" setting out proposed constitutional reforms to make the Falkland Islands government more democratic was issued here yesterday.

It was not unlike a Westminster consultative Green Paper, except that it covered only two sides of foolscap and, instead of being sold at an exorbitant price, could be obtained free by popping in to see Peter King sweating over a duplicator in the Government secretariat office next to the army mines disposal office.

It is based on replies to questionnaires sent by 200 islanders in Stanley and the countryside, a response rate of 25 per cent of the total electorate.

Its proposals are expected to be adopted unopposed by the government here unless they are modified by further public

reaction. They will then be sent to Westminster for ratification, in the hope that this will enable the islands government to be seen as being more representative.

The central aim of the consultations was to modernise a government which, though dealing with a unit smaller than an English parish council is, to a large extent, a national government in a situation with huge international implications.

The most important proposal would give councillors a voting majority on the island's Executive Council which sits under the commissioner (and former governor) Sir Rex Hunt.

Sir Rex, who would lose power to nominate two elected members among council's total strength of seven, is in favour of change because he considers the power to be undemocratic.

We would, however, a United Kingdom Govern-

ment representative retain his power of veto over decisions.

The Legislative Council would continue to elect two councillors to the Executive Council. But in a new departure the whole Falklands electorate would vote a further two councillors on to the executive.

These two councillors could, in effect, claim the status of "island MPs." They could speak for the islands in emer-

Argentine voyage to Stanley is approved

By Patrick Keatley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

The government last night gave the green light to an application from a group in Argentina organising a trip to the Falklands for the relatives of soldiers who died in the fighting.

Details have yet to be worked out, but the sea

Unions halt Argentina, page 6

journey seems set to go ahead between now and the end of May.

When Mr Osvaldo Destefanis announced in Buenos Aires the formation of the group earlier this month, under the name of the Fatherland Volunteers Association, he said that he

had 140 applications for places. His plan is to charter a ship for the 400-mile journey to Port Stanley, and he has sought the support of the International Red Cross to arrange safe passage through the 150-mile exclusion zone, which is strictly enforced by RAF and Royal Navy patrols.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Pym, called in his advisers when the application from the group was forwarded from Geneva to London, with a covering letter from Swiss Red Cross officials.

The bodies of the Argentine soldiers, sailors, and airmen are buried in a military cemetery near Stanley because the junta failed to respond to British government offers to

Turn to back page, col. 7

Times

31 March 1983

Falklands memorial

From Mrs Anne Cantacuzino

Sir, I was both shocked and saddened when I saw a photograph today of the figure of Britannia which is to form part of the war memorial in Port Stanley.

It would be so much more fitting for a stone cross, the symbol of sacrifice and reconciliation, to be the memorial to that tragic war.

I feel that the brave men who died were doing their duty, and both they and their families would not want a triumphal figure in the Napoleonic style.

Yours faithfully,

ANNE CANTACUZINO

11 Pembroke Studios,

Pembroke Gardens, W8

March 27

Archbishop supports Argentina visit

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, yesterday supported the visit to Argentina by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard.

The bishop will visit Buenos Aires next month to welcome Argentina into the Anglican Communion. There has been criticism of the visit, including some by Mr George Thornton, Tory MP for Liverpool, Garston.

Archbishop Worlock said: "The announcement of Bishop Sheppard's projected visit to Argentina for the inauguration of a new province of the

Anglican Communion in Latin America has produced some harsh comments, which were quite uncalled for."

The *New Scientist* magazine disclosed yesterday that Argentina may be equipped next spring with a new type of homing torpedo that "sleeps" on the seabed for up to two years waiting for a target ship to come into range. A Swiss company has been commissioned to develop and build the remote controlled weapon, codenamed *Telemine*, at a cost of £60m, it says.

Leading article, page 15

Thurs 31 March
1983

The relationship between death and honour clearly weighs heavily on Gen. Menendez's mind and perhaps his most revealing remark preceded a list of Argentine officers who had fought heroically.

It almost sounded like an admission of guilt: "We had no death like that of Colonel (H) Jones." That really had an impact.

Sour note

Even the general's defence of his officers' bravery struck a sour note.

He gave details of battle-field losses among the officer ranks and added: "The English should be asked how many of their officers ran the same risk (of deaths). But someone would then argue that, if not as many English officers died, it was because they knew how to fight better."

One personal criticism of Gen. Menendez that seems to have struck deep is the suggestion that he spent all his time safe in Port Stanley, unlike Gen. Jeremy Moore, the British Commander, who paid regular visits to the front-line.

In a long and laboured defence of his actions Gen. Menendez examined in minute details the movements of his British opposite number.

He eventually decided that Gen. Moore could "no closer than three or four miles" to Argentine lines. By this suspect piece of geographical analysis, Gen. Menendez evidently concludes that his honour is saved.

The former military governor of the islands did not criticise the luckless and ill-prepared conscripts who formed the bulk of his command, but he notably restricted his praise to Argentina's professional soldiers.

Whenever these troops confronted the enemy, he claimed: "The British had serious difficulties in overcoming them. The British said they 'clung to the rocks like crabs'."

Gen. Menendez was suspended from active duty at the end of the war and is now waiting, like the three members of the junta that approved the invasion, for the outcome of various official inquiries into the conduct of senior military and civilian personnel.

His statement said he had refrained from general comment on the conduct of the war in anticipation of official reports on the conflict.

Final points

But these had failed to appear and "bearing in mind the date" (the first anniversary of the invasion) he had decided to "make some points clear."

His statement concluded: "The Argentine people ought to know that the men who defended the Malvinas, surrounded and affected by the British domination of the sea and the enemy's almost total aerial superiority, bombed and mortared daily, by night and day."

It continued that while severely limited in their mobility they resisted the most rigorous climatic conditions for nearly twice as long as their enemy. This included the weeks of waiting for the British to arrive.

CLAIM IS NONSENSE

Frequently at front

OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT writes: As would naturally be expected of any British commander the then Maj-Gen. Moore constantly visited Falklands' front-line units. So much so, in fact, that some of his own staff complained that he did not spend enough time with them back at his headquarters on board Fearless.

Gen. Menendez is reported as having examined Gen. Moore's movements "in minute detail," deciding that he came no closer than three-four miles to Argentine lines. This is sheer nonsense for neither Menendez nor his staff could possibly have known all Gen. Moore's movements.

Anyway, an arbitrary geographical distance taken out of an immediate battle context in mountain terrain is meaningless.

MENENDEZ PLEADS FOR HONOUR OF DEFEATED FORCES

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

DEEPLY embittered by the way history is treating his men who fought for the Falklands, Gen. Mario Menendez, the officer in short-lived command of the occupied islands, is trying to set the record straight.

After months of self-imposed silence he has issued an unprecedented personal plea for the honour of those who fought under him in the form of a long, sad statement of tortured self-appraisal.

In the statement, issued at the weekend, the general attempted to refute two deadly criticisms of the Argentine fighting man.

The first was that in the war for the Falklands his men did not know how to fight and the second, that, in any case, they were not brave enough.

Amid the 5,000 words of the podgy general's stodgy prose one passage summed up his uphill struggle to retrieve dignity from defeat.

Referring to critic of units that surrendered without suffering heavy losses, Gen. Menendez commented:

It has been said, and some people still think, that if there are 'no deaths' it's because there has been no battle.

But the difference between being dead and being wounded can be no more than a centimetre in the area of a bullet's impact. We had officers and soldiers who suffered two, three or more wounds but, thanks to God, stayed alive.



Gen. Menendez in Port Stanley during the conflict.

This surrender is to be effective from 2359 hours ZULU on 14 June (2059 hours local) and includes those Argentine Forces presently deployed in and around Port Stanley, those others on East Falkland, ~~West Falkland~~ West Falkland and all the outlying islands.

[Signature]
..... Commander Argentine Forces
..... J. J. MOORE
Major General

The signatures of Gen. Menendez and Maj.-Gen. Jeremy Moore on the Instrument of Surrender.

Millions of defiant strikers ignore ban by Argentina's military government

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS
in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA was paralysed by a general strike yesterday as militant trade unionists stepped up their campaign against the military-led government.

In defiance of an official ban on the strike, issued at the weekend, millions of workers heeded union calls to stay at home.

Transport services were decimated, provincial newspapers failed to appear and dozens of banks stayed closed.

Last week the government gave a warning that the proposed return to democracy might be threatened if the strike went ahead but, by early afternoon yesterday, there were no signs that the military was preparing to step in.

Although the strike had been declared illegal Senor Hector Villaveiran, Labour Minister, told reporters that he "had not

given orders" for union leaders to be arrested. Nor was he proposing to extend anti-strike legislation.

The strike was called jointly by the two rival branches of the Confederation of General Workers ostensibly in pursuit of wage demands and as a protest against the government's overall economic strategy.

But the stoppage was widely being regarded here as an attack on the junta and an assertion of the unions' growing political muscle.

Inadequate offer

Even Senor Villaveiran has admitted that the government's final offer of a 12 per cent. salary increase was inadequate, given Argentina's three digit inflation. But his pleas for moderation at a time of politi-

cal uncertainty and acute economic crisis fell on deaf ears.

With elections proposed for the end of October, the unions appear determined to establish a power base that no future government, military or civilian, can ignore.

Yesterday, the Interior Ministry admitted that about 85 per cent. of the workforce had supported the strike, confirming the strength of union influence. And all indications last night were that the 24-hour stoppage would be at least as damaging as the general strike called by the two unions last December.

Early reports from the provinces said railway stations were silent, long distance bus services practically non-existent and air schedules badly disrupted.

In Buenos Aires most daily newspapers were published but two serious casualties were the

quality daily LA PRENSA and the pro-Navy tabloid CONVICCION.

The trade unions are due to continue their anti junta campaign tomorrow with a march commemorating the demonstration that was forcibly broken up by riot police a few days before the invasion of the Falklands last year.

The tension that followed that fracas is considered to have influenced Gen. Galtieri and the junta with their plans to press on with the invasion.

THE FALKLANDS ONE YEAR ON

ISLANDERS TURN ON MAGGIE

By JOHN WARDEN
and MICHAEL EVANS

MRS THATCHER
was criticised by
Falkland islanders
last night over
a plan for Argentinian families to
visit war graves.

In fact, the islanders
feared the makings of
another Foreign
Office sell-out.

The ruling Council at
Port Stanley said it
would allow a visit only
if the Junta formally
declared an end of
hostilities.
Council member Mr Terry
Pick said the people were

angry at Mrs Thatcher.
The idea was "a mockery
and unacceptable."
Civil Commissioner Sir Rex
Hunt agreed the population
were "unhappy at the prospect of having any Argentinians on Falkland Islands soil again so soon after the conflict and before the Argentine Government has even declared a formal cessation of hostilities."

The clash comes near the anniversary of the Argentines' invasion—on Saturday—and two months after Mrs Thatcher on a visit was awarded the freedom of the Falklands for her "unyielding leadership" in the war.
The Foreign Office said it had no objection in principle to next-of-kin visiting the graves of the 220 Argentine

soldiers killed in the fighting. The Government, with world opinion in mind, wanted to show a humanitarian face. But the islanders from the onset believed that the very existence of an official cemetery would provide Argentina with a foot in the door by claiming the right to visit—perhaps even an Argentine President demanding a right to honour the dead.

So the islanders wanted the men buried at sea.
Now, however, a cemetery is established at Darwin under the Geneva Convention—and an Argentinian national group called "Volunteers for the Fatherland" has asked the International Red Cross in Switzerland to safeguard a visit by next-of-kin.

To make the issue more

Premier accused of mockery over Argentine relatives' visit

difficult, the so-called "Volunteers" have been threatening to charter their own vessel and land on the "Malvinas" without passports so as to exercise Argentina's claim to territorial rights.

The Foreign Office, in touch with the Red Cross, will impose strict conditions. The Argentines will have to prove that the visit is strictly for relatives and agree to it being under military supervision.

Last night the local council, despite its objections, did not ban the visit. Sir Rex Hunt explained: "They felt they could not do anything that would jeopardise the visit of our own families to the Falklands."

For both sides would be

travelling via Uruguay — whose Government, in event of a ban on the Argentines, might stop the 500 British families due next month.

The visit of the British families, including Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Colonel "H" VC, will last from April 8 to April 12. They will be flying out to Montevideo before the sea journey to Stanley.

Whitehall sources said that any Argentinian trip would take place only "well after the British families have left."

The issue raised by the Falkland Council, that Argentina must formally surrender, is bound to make the Foreign Office delay approval even further.

● Mrs Diana Batt with her three children had a private meeting with the Queen on receiving a posthumous DSC awarded to her husband, Lieut.-Commander Gordon Batt, a Harrier pilot in the Falklands. Among other awards were a CBE for Canberra Captain Dennis Scott-Masson and a DSO for Marine Colonel Nicholas Vaux.



Guardian 29.3.83

Approval for Argentine voyage to Falklands

Continued from page one

arrange their repatriation. The Foreign Office said last night that the offer to return the bodies still stood.

The Foreign Office statement contained a hedging clause about certain details which must be fully discussed and agreed before clearance for the visit can be given.

John Ezard writes from Port Stanley: The Falklands Civil Commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, said last night: "I have no information about this. I have not been told officially from London. No response can be made until I have consulted my councillors here."

London's failure to inform

the Falklands before a statement was made was said to be due to a Telex breakdown. The issue has been under discussion for over a week.

Late last night Sir Rex received by Telex the bare text of a statement issued earlier to the press in London. The way in which the situation was handled by Whitehall will inflame an already tense relationship between the two governments over the issue.

Councillors and senior officials were thrown into anxiety by earlier messages from the Foreign Office asking them to reconsider what had previously been a joint, firmly agreed policy over an Argentine dependents' visit.

29/3/83

FALKLAND MOURNER BAN ENDS

By DAVID ADAMSON
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Government has lifted its objections to a group of Argentinians visiting the graves of relatives killed in the Falklands war.

The Foreign Office is discussing the visit with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, whom the Buenos Aires-based Centre of Volunteers for the Fatherland asked for help.

The British position is that there is no objection in principle provided the trip is organised and supervised by the Red Cross, is purely humanitarian in nature and "certain conditions" are observed.

Foreign Office officials would not specify the "certain conditions" last night but they probably relate to the conduct of the party while on the islands.

Britain wants to be sure that the Centre, a Right-wing body more noted for patriotic zeal than humanitarian interests, does not try to turn the visit into a propaganda stunt.

The Centre's president, Sr Osvaldo Destefanis, said earlier this month that about 40 relatives wished to visit the islands.

Study of defeat—P5

Daily Telegraph 29.3.83

Telegraph 29/3/83

Llyods List 26.3.83

2. List 26.3.83

BOOKS By ALAN CAMERON

Parliament and the Falklands

Iron Britannia: Why Parliament Waged its Falklands War by Anthony Barnett. 160pp. (Allison & Busby, 6a Noel St, London W1V 3RB. £2.95 paperback.)

FRANKLY polemical, by a member of the editorial committee of "The New Left Review," this book, while making no secret of the author's own sympathies, nonetheless illuminates some very important issues and questions.

These are not about the actual Falklands fighting but about the Parliamentary attitudes and traditions which got the nation into a deplorable impasse from which actually waging a mini-war was the only possible "face-saver" within what the author sees as a totally outmoded set of codes and values.

It would be a mistake to dismiss the essay as unimportant left-wing propaganda.

To begin with it puts on record a lot of largely forgotten facts about the status of the Falkland Islands, revealing for example, that ever since 1910 Foreign Office officials have had doubts about the "legitimacy" of Britain's claim to Falklands sovereignty. (while reference to any encyclopaedia article on the islands usually reveals that

they have long been thought to have valuable oil-fields offshore).

It is also recorded that between one third and a half of the islanders in 1980 were not totally opposed to some kind of lease-back arrangement.

Costs of the Falklands war, it is claimed, probably add up to about £100,000 per Falkland islander and £10,000 a year for 20 years. There is a good deal of information of this kind.

By far the most important set of issues raised by the book has nothing to do with party politics. It argues that outmoded emotions about national sovereignty, crude instincts of revenge, and government by the consensus politics of Parliament are not just inappropriate to modern world conditions but downright dangerous in the nuclear age.

Read with such thoughts in mind, the book is a useful contribution to the present mood of inquiry about the Falklands war.

Times 29.3.83

Argentine relatives may visit Falklands

By David Cross *Times* 28/3/83

The British Government last night overcame its doubts and agreed in principle to let a group of relatives of Argentine soldiers who died during last year's war in the Falklands to visit their graves.

But the Foreign Office said in a statement that the visit would go ahead only under certain conditions. These included a stipulation that the visit would have to be entirely humanitarian in nature and organized and supervised entirely by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The statement said that the British Government's agreement in principle had already been transmitted to the ICRC and discussions were already in train about details of a possible trip. The Government also reiterated its earlier offer to the Argentine Government to return the bodies of their servicemen at present buried on the Falklands.

The British first heard of Argentine plans to request a visit for relatives of their war casualties in February. The idea was not particularly palatable because the request for a visit came from an organization calling itself the Centre of Volunteers for the Fatherland. The group was formed by civilians who volunteered to fight during the conflict in the south Atlantic.

Since British forces recaptured the islands last year the group has concentrated on

propaganda and the British have clearly been worried that this was the prime motive behind the request for a visit to the Falkland Islands. This explains why the British are now insisting on strict conditions for the visit.

According to Senor Osvaldo Destefanis, the president of the group, at least 40 relatives have expressed interest in going to the Falklands. There are believed to be more than 250 Argentine soldiers buried on the islands. He has insisted that his motive is purely humanitarian.

● **BUENOS AIRES.** - Yesterday's 24-hour general strike against the junta's economic policies succeeded in paralysing the country despite being declared illegal at the last moment, Andrew Thompson writes.

The strike was called by the two wings of the organised labour movement and supported by the Transport Workers Union which controls bus and underground services in Buenos Aires.

First reports indicated that stoppages were even more effective than during the general strike of December 6 last year. Then, about 80 per cent of the country's economic activities were halted.

Yesterday there was no public transport in Buenos Aires and most shops and offices remained closed. Essential services operated with skeleton staffing

Visits to Graves Worry Falklanders

LONDON (UPI) — Residents of the Falkland Islands are deeply concerned about Britain's decision to allow a group of Argentines to visit the graves of their war dead on the islands, officials said Tuesday.

The islands' legislative council was to meet late Tuesday to discuss the Foreign Office decision to allow the visit next month as long as it is humanitarian in nature and supervised completely by the International Committee of the Red Cross, a spokeswoman for the Falkland Islands Government Office said.

"The main thing they're really worried about is that the people coming in to visit the graves are actually the family of the soldiers who died," she said. "They're worried that the people who come are genuine and not just tourists or people who want to use the visit for propaganda."

Evening Standard 29.3.83

Islanders: We don't want Argentine mourners here

by Keith Dovkants
and John McLeod

FALKLAND Island councillors were expected to meet today to discuss the Foreign Office decision to allow families of Argentinian dead to visit war graves.

Opposition to the proposed visit—by about 140 relatives—is expected and there is already anger over the fact that the approval was announced in London before Falklands civil commissioner

Sir Rex Hunt was told.

This was said to be due to a telex breakdown, but it is likely to increase tension between Port Stanley and Whitehall, caused by the plan to allow safe passage for the Argentinians through the 150-mile exclusion zone.

There is concern in the Falklands that the visit will be turned into a propaganda coup by the organising body, the Centre for Volunteers of the Fatherland.

The Centre, and its director Mr Osvaldo Destefanis,

appealed to the Red Cross in Geneva to put pressure on Britain to allow the trip.

The Red Cross will escort the visitors, who plan to take a ship for the 400-mile voyage around mid-April. This will follow a planned visit to the islands by families of British war dead.

Right-wing

Anger in the Falklands over the Argentinian visit is heightened by the fact that Argentina has still not declared an end to hostilities.

Although the war graves

trip is not sponsored by the Buenos Aires government, the volunteers' centre is recognised as a Right-wing group which fully supports the military regime.

The bodies of Argentinian soldiers, sailors and airmen are buried in a military cemetery near Port Stanley because so far the junta has failed to take up Britain's offer to send them home.

Meanwhile, one of Britain's most daring and aggressive air heroes in the Falklands conflict was posthumously honoured at Buckingham Palace today.

Lieutenant-Commander Gordon Batt was killed when his Sea Harrier exploded on take-off from the Hermes on May 24, as he flew off to support the San Carlos landings.

His wife, Diana, daughter Joanna and sons Christopher and Andrew were at the Palace to receive his Distinguished Service Cross.

Evening Standard 29.3.83

War graves 'all clear'

A PROPOSED visit to the Falklands by relatives of Argentinian war dead is likely to get the official backing of the islands council, it was said today.

Mr Adrian Monk, the Falkland Islands government representative in London, said a meeting to discuss Foreign

Office approval for the visit was being held this afternoon.

"I expect the council to say it will accept the visit—provided the people concerned are genuine."

Fears have been expressed in the Falklands that the organisers of the trip would try to turn it into a propaganda exercise.

30.3.83

FALKLANDERS ANGRY OVER WAR DEAD VISIT

By PATRICK WATTS in Port Stanley

FALKLAND Islanders attacked Mrs Thatcher yesterday following a Foreign Office decision to allow a group of Argentines to visit the graves of their war dead in the colony.

Councillor Terry Peck said he had been inundated with telephone calls, some demanding a demonstration while others called the Prime Minister "a traitor" for going back on her word.

Mr Peck said it was "a contradiction by Mrs Thatcher which was unacceptable, and a mockery."

He said that when the Falklands Council had been approached by the Foreign Office to approve a request by Senor Osvaldo Destefanis, leader of the Argentine "Centre for Volunteers for the Fatherland," to bring a group to the Falklands to view the graves of the Argentine dead, the Councillors had set down three conditions:

ARGENTINA had to announce a cessation of hostilities with Britain;

THE VISITORS had to undertake all formal procedures for entering the islands, including valid visas; and

ONLY close relatives of the named and known dead were to be admitted.

222 buried at Darwin

The British Government had given no indication that it had agreed to these terms, said Mr Peck.

The bodies of 222 Argentines killed during last year's conflict were buried at a cemetery at Darwin. Only about 107 had been identified; the remainder were not wearing their identity tags.

"The British Government did not accept our proposals and asked us to reconsider the situation," said Mr Peck. "We did, and they (the Argentines) should be prepared to take away their dead with them, with us having supervised their exhumation."

Mr Peck said he planned to call a public meeting.

In January, seven months after Britain recaptured the Islands from Argentina, Mrs Thatcher received a rousing welcome when she visited the colony. She was awarded the freedom of the Falklands for her "courageous, steadfast and unyielding leadership."

Red Cross channel

Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, said that if the request for the visit by Argentine relatives had come from Buenos Aires then it would have been possible for Britain to have refused, but as it had come from an individual on purely humanitarian grounds then the reaction was of a different nature.

Sr Destefanis had purposely dealt directly with the International Red Cross to avoid putting the visit in jeopardy by dealing through the Argentine government.

Sir Rex would not disclose the conditions under which the Foreign Office had agreed in principle that the Argentine visit should take place.

"Her Majesty's Government has taken our views into account. We now have to wait and iron out the details, and we have been promised that these will be passed on to us," he said.

Sir Rex did not envisage that the ship bringing the Argentines could be in the Falklands before the planned four-day visit by British dependents, which is due to begin on April 9.

It appeared that the

D. TELEGRAPH

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Uruguayan government had put pressure on the British to allow the Argentines into the Falklands, indicating that Montevideo might withdraw permission for the British dependents to travel through Uruguay early in April on their way to the Falklands.

If the British dependents had voyaged from the Ascension Islands, a British possession, it would have meant a long, drawn-out trip. The voyage from Montevideo to the Falklands would be three to four days, whereas from Ascension it would be nine or 10.

Sir Rex stressed that the Argentines would only visit Darwin.

The Argentine next of kin had been advised by the British Government previously that they could have their dead back in their own country. "We will be making this quite clear to the Argentines," he said.

Relatives will sail in mid-April

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

AN Argentine ship carrying 200 relatives of soldiers killed in the Falklands war will set sail for the islands in mid-April, whether or not agreement for a visit has been reached with Britain, said Señor Osvaldo Destefanis, organiser of the proposed expedition.

A small cargo boat had already been chartered for the voyage, and conversion work providing passenger accommodation was almost complete.

Sr Destefanis, a television engineer who is president of the Centre for Volunteers for the Fatherland, has been the guiding force behind Argentine efforts to visit the Falklands.

The main aim of his group, set up in Buenos Aires last September, is to co-ordinate support for Argentina's claims to the Falklands among civilian "patriots" who have no connection with the military.

Slogans on walls

The Centre claims to be independent of the government, but many people believe it is actively encouraged by the junta.

It has sparsely-furnished offices in an unfashionable western suburb of Buenos Aires. On the walls are slogans like "We never surrendered," while nailed to a tree outside is a Union Jack carrier-bag stuffed with old newspapers and labelled "rubbish."

Although critics of the centre tend to dismiss the "volunteers" as ultra-nationalist crackpots, Sr Destefanis is obviously well-organised and determined to make the most of the war dead issue.

"We have been able to charter a boat very cheaply, thanks to sympathetic owners," he told me yesterday. "The crew formerly belonged to a boat that was sunk during the (South Atlantic) war, and they are giving their services free."

April 16 sailing

About 260 relatives of dead soldiers have asked to go on the trip, and 200 of these will be summoned to Buenos Aires in mid-April to board the ship, the name of which Sr Destefanis declined to reveal "for security reasons."

The provisional sailing date is April 16, though this may be altered if weather conditions are bad.

"Only family relatives will be going on the boat," he said. "We don't want to be tourists, or look around the islands. We just want to go to the cemetery for no more than a couple of hours, then leave."

Asked whether the Centre was really a political publicity stunt, inspired by the junta, Sr Destefanis became angry. "That's ridiculous. How can they talk of propaganda when we are dealing with the pain and sadness of families?"

ARGENTINE UNIONS FLEX MUSCLES

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS
in Buenos Aires

AS Argentine trade unionists crowed about the extent of a one-day general strike, called to protest against low wages and the military Government's economic policy, the Government was bracing itself for further disruption.

Encouraged by overwhelming support for Monday's 24-hour stoppage, union leaders are now hoping for a massive turnout today at a march commemorating a violent demonstration that preceded invasion of the Falklands last year.

Many observers believe the tension that followed the workers' protests on March 30 last year directly influenced General Galtieri's Junta to press ahead with the invasion of the Falklands.

The Government regards union efforts to mark the anniversary of last year's protest, which was forcibly broken up by riot police, as unnecessarily provocative.

Leader is warned

Senor Saul Ubaldini, leader of the militant wing of the General Workers Confederation (CGT), has been warned by police that his union will be held responsible for any violence that occurs during today's march.

But Senor Ubaldini has refused to be pressured into calling off the march, and there were signs yesterday that the moderate wing of the CGT was preparing to join the protest against the military regime.

Only in the northern city of Tucuman was business activity possible on Monday, and union leaders claimed that overall up to 95 per cent. of Argentina's workforce supported the strike.

But although the strike undeniably gained workers' support, there were few signs yesterday that the unions would win an unpollitical or economic concessions from the Government.

Senor Hector Villaveiran, Minister of Works, said the strike had changed nothing. With the Argentine economy showing no sign of serious improvement, the Government is unlikely suddenly to find itself able to satisfy union demands.

The Queen honours Falklands veterans

MORE veterans of the Falklands war were honoured by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

It will be exactly one year ago this weekend that Argentine troops landed on the Falkland Islands.

Lt-Col Nicholas Vaux received his Distinguished Service Order after leading the 42 Commando Royal Marines in operations at Mount Kent, Mount Challenger and Mount Harriet.

Mrs Diana Batt and her three children had a private audience of the Queen to receive a posthumous Distinguished Service Cross awarded to her husband, Lt-Cdr Gordon Batt.

Lt-Cdr Batt as killed on a night-flying mission over the Falklands prior to making a low-level attack.

Another member of the Royal

Marines, Capt Dennis Sparks, who received the Military MBE, remembered how a year ago he was in Denmark planning an exercise. "Five or six days later we were on the Canberra. It was a remarkable achievement," he said.

Capt Dennis Scott-Masson, master of the 44,000-tonne Canberra was also among those who received their awards from the Queen. He was given the Civil CBE after he took his ship four times into the heart of the battle at San Carlos Water with the constant threat of air attack.

Cpl Stephen Newland, of the Marines, was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during a battle on Mount Harriet.

Cpl Chrystie Ward, one of the men Cpl Newland was attempting to assist, was also awarded the Military Medal. He led a section of 42 Commandos.

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DAILY TELEGRAPH
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Argentina visit

Guardian
30/3/83



THE RIGHT REV. David Sheppard, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool (above) is to visit Buenos Aires next month for a ceremony welcoming the merger of diocese of Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay and Chile into the Anglican communion as one province under the Church of England's "Partners in Mission" scheme.

Falklands visit faces a hitch

By JOHN DICKIE,
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE planned visit by 550 relations to British war graves in the Falklands could run into trouble at the last minute.

The widows and families are due to leave next Tuesday on an all-expenses—paid 12-day trip, first in two British Airways Boeing 747s to Uruguay, and from there by the Cunard Countess on the 1,200-mile sea passage.

But there is confusion over conditions for a similar visit by Argentine families to the graves of their servicemen in the Falklands.

The Argentine Government is

known to be putting pressure on Uruguay over the use of Montevideo as a transit centre for both visits.

The Argentines do not want to be seen to be forced to accept inferior terms and are negotiating hard through the International Red Cross in Geneva.

The Foreign Office has insisted that any Argentine visit must be organised and supervised by the Red Cross.

Uruguay wants to be seen to be

even-handed and balks at requiring the Argentines to travel in a vessel marked with a Red Cross while the British families sail under the Cunard flag for Montevideo.

When asked at the Foreign Office in London whether the Uruguayan Government was threatening to withdraw transit facilities for the British families, a spokesman hedged, saying that it was a matter for the Uruguayan Government to comment on.

● The Argentine Government yesterday declared the Falklands invasion date, April 2, a national holiday.

Argentine plan shocks Islanders

PORT STANLEY: Most of the Falkland islanders are shocked and upset by the planned visit to the islands of the families of dead Argentine soldiers.

They are particularly bitter because only last January junior Defence Minister Mr Jerry Wiggin

told them that such a visit was not on unless Argentina formally declared an end to hostilities.

The Islanders fear that the Argentine government is out to make political capital from the event including, they believe, a TV spectacular.

One local councillor, Mr Terry

Peck, received 30 telephone calls yesterday in less than two hours. 'All', he said, 'were completely opposed to Argentines coming here.'

And Mrs Grace Goss, an elderly grandmother, said: 'We haven't got over the war yet. If they came at the moment I'd feel like lining them up and making them walk across the minefields to clear them.'

Uruguay's attitude to Britons forced climbdown

FO handling of war dead visit stuns islanders

From John Ezard in Port Stanley and Patrick Keatley in London

The Falkland Islands government knew last night that it had been placed in a position it had trusted it would never again occupy after last year's conflict—that of being treated like peasants by the Foreign Office.

Although some in Port Stanley did their best to put a constructive, polite face on things, there was barely-suppressed anger over the Foreign Office's method of communicating the decision to allow relatives of Argentina's war dead to visit the islands.

The department's handling of the announcement in London on Monday night of a decision "in principle" to let the next of kin visit the Falklands

Leader comment, page 12;
Where the sun never sets,
page 17

has, in the view of even the most reflective councillors and officials, knocked confidence in the British Government almost back to the level it was at before the Argentine invasion on April 2 last year.

Monday's announcement represented a climbdown from the original position a month ago, when the Argentine Fatherland Volunteers Association announced its plans in Buenos Aires, and the FO indicated that an unauthorised expedition would be refused entry into Falkland waters.

The Foreign Office said at the beginning of March that any such project would have to await a statement by the gov-



Sir Rex Hunt — given official press statement

ernment of Argentina renouncing the use of force and confirming that hostilities have ended.

The position has changed, with the approval of the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister, because of the risk of diplomatic reprisal by Uruguay, which would feel obliged to demonstrate Latin American solidarity.

The relatives of British servicemen who died in the conflict expect to travel by air to the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo in April, changing there to a ship which will take them to the Falklands in just over two days.

The key issue in Port Stanley, however, is not whether the visit should be permitted. It is the sudden, unilateral release by a low tier of the Foreign Office of a Cabinet committee decision after five days of acute, secret diplomatic pressure by the FO on the Falklands which had already thrown the Government here into anxiety and uncertainty.

Councillors and officials

knew that the issue was to be discussed among senior ministers on Monday, but believed that they would be confidentially told and consulted further before a joint announcement was made.

They also thought that, on a matter known to be so important to them they might receive a personal confidential appeal from Mrs Thatcher to agree to the Argentine visit. "If she had asked us we would have put aside our misgivings and done what she wanted," said one island leader.

The island government's leaders were standing by for messages all day on Monday. Instead, the decision was announced in a press statement by the Foreign Office in London. Her Majesty's Civil Commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, first heard about it when he was approached for comment by a local reporter who had been alerted by a London newspaper. Sir Rex had to admit his ignorance.

Three hours later, Sir Rex received by telex a bald copy of the FO press release. The excuse given was a Telex circuit fault. However, Telex in the Cable and Wireless office a stone's throw from Government House were working normally almost all day.

Moreover, Stanley harbour bristles with military ships which have instantaneous satellite Telex links with Whitehall. In the end, it was one of these which was used to get the belated news to him.

Sir Rex said yesterday: "The islanders are unhappy at the prospect of having any Argentines on Falkland Islands soil again so soon after the conflict last year, and before

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Tactics on visit stun Port Stanley

Continued from page one

the Argentine government has even declared a formal cessation of hostilities."

The first islanders heard of the decision was from a reading of the FO press statement on the island radio. No further information was given, because none was available.

The most outspoken member of the Falklands executive council, Mr Terry Peck, who was awarded the MBE for his under-cover work in action with British forces during the conflict, went as far yesterday as to call Mrs Thatcher "a traitor."

He said the reversal of a previously agreed position between the two governments was "contradictory, a mockery, and unacceptable." He would call a public protest meeting within 48 hours. This, in view of the turnout and temper of some of the previous public meetings he has called, was no light threat.

Mr Peck, on other occasions Sir Rex's leading critic, said that the Civil Commissioner had behaved like "an iron man" during the earlier secret consultations, fully consulting his councillors and representing their views.

"I have nothing but praise for his conduct. He stood up for us — and I think the Foreign Office is now punishing him for doing that."

The background to the earlier secret consultations and the decision illustrates how, in the view of many here, old mistrusts of Britain have been avoidably aroused for the first time since the conflict.

The 221 Argentine war dead so far discovered were buried at a consecrated cemetery at Darwin, 60 miles from the British forces graveyard, on February 19. This had to be done because the bodies, many of them shallowly buried in haste by retreating comrades, were badly decomposing. For nine months Argentina had refused to respond to British requests to take its dead home or indicate how it wanted them respectfully interred on the Falklands.

But this year the Centre for Volunteers for the Fatherland, an unofficial body, began saying in Argentina that it had raised money to charter a ship and bring next of kin for a Falklands visit.

After the Darwin reburials, the jointly-stated position of the UK and Falklands governments was that no Argentine visits would be permitted until Argentina formally declared an end to immediate hostilities.

It is a declaration islanders very much want, because it would remove the stress of constant military alerts, and fears of alerts.

The joint inter-governmental position was born out of these memories, out of fears that repeated regular visits even by Argentine next of kin might gradually be exploited in a similar way, and out of suspicions that the Fatherland Centre was at least in part an Argentine Government front organisation.

That position held until last Thursday, when the Foreign Office suddenly asked the Falklands Islands Government to waive its objections. The councillors and officials on its two representative bodies refused. They wanted a formal ceasefire.

On Friday the FO replied urgently, pressing a warning that Montevideo transit for the British next of kin visit might be endangered by a refusal.

Although island leaders were not told the grounds for this fear, it is understood in London that Uruguay has raised the subject of the Argentine visit diplomatically — although without necessarily threatening retaliation if it was refused.

25/3/83

Thatcher under fire over Argentine loans

By PETER PRYKE Parliamentary Staff

MRS THATCHER came under fire in the Commons yesterday over the Government's support for loans to Argentina. Mr FOOT declared that some of the "huge increase" in defence spending by that country recently may have been financed by British money.

Asking if the Prime Minister stood by her previous statement that the loans would not be spent on armaments, he said that in recent days up to £5 million of Argentina's £38 million foreign debt was thought to have been spent on defence.

Mrs THATCHER defended the Government's decision to back an International Monetary Fund loan and two commercial loans to Argentina.

She said that if a country defaulted on a debt and did not pay it, more money was released to buy arms than would have been the case if she had been held to repaying her debts.

"That is obvious," Mrs Thatcher retorted as Labour MPs shouted their scepticism.

Legal difficulties

Mr FOOT asked if it was true that talks on the legal conditions of the loan were proving difficult. "Are these difficulties being raised by the British Government," he asked.

"Is the British Government at last trying to lay down some conditions about the way in which money may be spent on arms?"

Mrs THATCHER, in reply gave a second reason for the Government's position, that unless Argentina received some loan she would default to third countries.

That would trigger off the collapse of "very difficult and delicate packages which have been reached through the IMF."

"It was in the interests of this country to do what he did through the IMF and through the agreement of two commercial loans under two different terms."

Earlier Mr BRUCE GARDYNE, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said that if Argentina diverted the loan money and used it to buy arms it could jeopardise its chance of getting future drawing from the IMF.

Also, if Argentina defaulted

on her debts there would be widespread repercussions which could even hit employment in this country.

'Financing fascists'

Mr STAN NEWENS (Lab., Harlow) said that after the delivery of a German frigate to Argentina, "replete with British components," fighter jets and numerous other arms on order, it was a disgrace that the British Government was prepared "to finance the rearmament of fascist Argentina."

Dealing with further points, Mr BRUCE-GARDYNE said there was never a shortage of arms sellers around the world. "These loans are an integral part of the IMF programme for Argentina which puts tight controls on its public finances."

25/3/83

JUNTA BANS MAGAZINE

Argentina's military government yesterday banned the latest issue of the weekly magazine LA SEMANA for publishing what it called misleading information about the Armed Forces. An article in the magazine referred to alleged activities by Captain Alfredo Astiz, of the Argentine Navy, linking him with torture sessions during the Forces' crackdown on Leftist guerrillas in the late 1970s.

Captain Astiz surrendered South Georgia to the British during the Falklands war and was returned to Argentina as a prisoner of war.—Reuter.

Menéndez defends his troops' performance

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

General Mario Benjamin Menéndez, military governor of the Falkland Islands during the Argentine occupation last year, has released a document defending the performance of his troops against internal and external criticism. It is the general's first detailed public statement since the end of the war.

General Menéndez said that the soldiers who fought on the islands "under extreme conditions did all that they could with what they had available at the time to defend our sovereignty".

He pointed out that Argentine forces were inferior to the task force, which "established a total naval blockade, dominated the sea, and exercised almost total air superiority, broken only thanks to the courage and audacity of our pilots".

"But, despite that, it needed 45 days of siege, constant air

and naval harassment, and finally, intense and concentrated attacks by land, sea and air before it could overcome the defenders of the islands," he said.

The former governor added that "English artillery, which had a similar calibre to our own, was in much better supply and had a greater range (17 kilometres against 10½km), better capacity to hit targets and greater precision and speed."

General Menéndez was at special pains to answer criticism that Argentine officers did not fight. "Each time the English faced officers and NCOs (professionals), they had serious difficulties to overcome them... when small units met, our commandos defeated them several times (Mount Wal Two Sisters and Murre Bridge), forcing them to retreat in a hurry."

Anthony Barnett

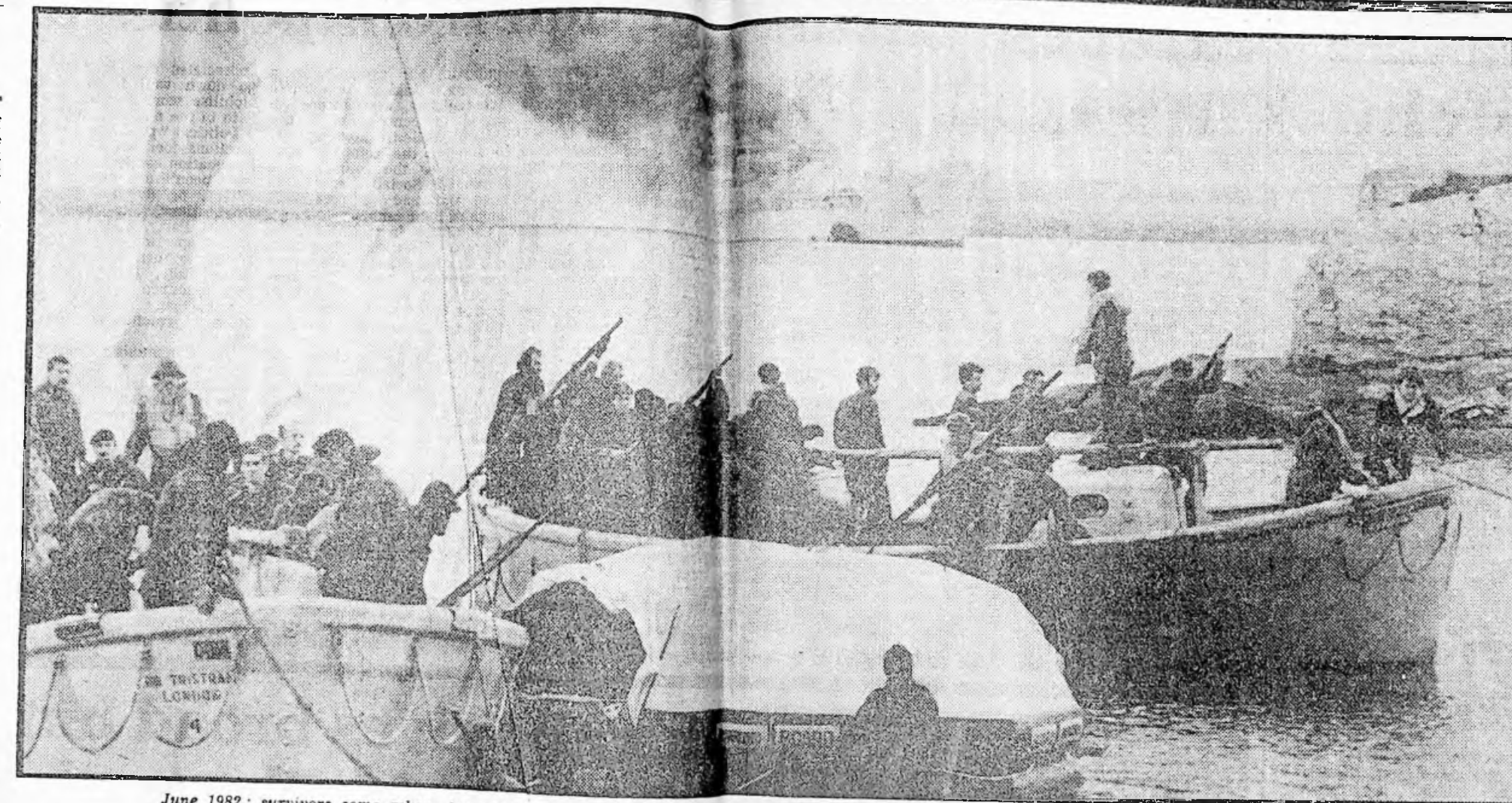
AS THE first anniversary of Argentina's invasion of the Falklands approaches, it seems suitable to ask what should be done with the islands now. The answer (perhaps the only answer which will prevent the waste of thousands of millions of pounds and the loss of more lives) is that the British Government should declare forthwith that it is willing to cede sovereignty to Argentina. In return for a formal cessation of hostilities, the UK should announce in advance that it is willing to recognise Argentina's claims to the Falklands provided the community rights of the present Falklanders are protected.

The most convenient form of such protection along with lavish compensation, would seem to be a leaseback arrangement. This would ensure British local government for a period of, say, 25 years. A period long enough to ensure that older and retired islanders can live out their years under the Union Jack, while younger residents would have plenty of time to adjust to a different future.

Why is this obvious solution not being pursued? Is it because it would be unpopular? No: the recent Observer MORI poll showed that a majority in Britain desires a negotiated solution. It is not, then, that such a proposal would be politically unacceptable, it is rather, I would argue, that it is unacceptable to the politicians.

To refer to "the politicians" as a singular group runs the danger of populist demagoguery. It encourages a cheap us-and-them mentality. British politicians are anyway divided over the Falklands if one looks closely enough. Nonetheless, on the question of British sovereignty and its fantasy role in the world, there does seem to be an all-party delusion. To use a phrase from Anthony Verrier's recent study *Through The Looking Glass*, the House of Commons still succumbs to "the temptation of the illusion of power."

It is therefore timely, on this anniversary, to remind ourselves why Britain continues to reinforce its ultimately untenable position in the Falklands. The policy of the present Government is clear enough. During the Commons debate on the Franks Report Thatcher asked what any negotiations with Argentina



June 1982: survivors come ashore from the blazing *Sir Galahad* in Bluff Cove. "If a place is worth dying for, it's got to be worth keeping..." Picture by Martin Cleaver

A conflict that has only just begun

could possibly be about. Buenos Aires wants only sovereignty: "That is totally unacceptable to us and the islanders." Yes indeed, "us and the islanders," her order of precedence is exact.

But those who are supposed to oppose Thatcher hardly pressed her on the issue. On the same occasion Michael Foot argues only that there would have to be a treaty "in the future" — certainly "no one could ask for it immediately." Dr Owen was somewhat clearer about the dangers of the present situation, but also vague as to timing. We must be prepared to discuss sovereignty, he said, when the wounds of war have healed. He thought this might be soon, but his position, like Foot's, remained manifestly equivocal.

The other side's was not.

Julian Amery denounced all such talk: "Negotiate is the great cry. We hear it with industrial relations. We heard it with Hitler and Stalin. We get it today with Andropov."

Instead, Amery advocated that Britain should use its strengthened position in the Falklands to "take the lead" in the creation of a South Atlantic alliance to include Chile and South Africa.

Although also from the Tory back-benches, Sir Nigel Fisher disagreed with Amery. That is to say, while he agreed that there should be a South Atlantic alliance, in his view it should internationalise the Falklands, because a British "Fortress Falklands" cannot be sustained indefinitely. However, Sir Nigel added, "I accept that there can be no question of an arrangement with

Argentina for several years to come."

Before asking why we have to wait so many years for the inevitable, it is worth noting where we have heard this refrain before. In his contribution to the same Parliamentary debate Enoch Powell stated with his usual perverse clarity: "This is not a debate about Northern Ireland — and yet it is a debate about Northern Ireland." He then went on to show that the formulas about sovereignty within which the Falklands have been discussed are similar to those used about Ulster.

Should not this give us pause? The preset series of "events" in Ireland began nearly fifteen years ago. Then too voices argued that there would have to be a negotiated solution eventually. Of course, it was im-

mediately added, we could not talk to the "men of violence." Naturally, after each outrage there has to be a suitable lapse of time for tempers to cool. Thus, viewed with the experience of Northern Ireland in mind, pious statements about the need for an eventual agreement with Argentina may prove to be nothing more than a way of making indefinite confrontation appear more palatable. Far from the Falklands conflict being over, it might be wiser to say that it has only just begun.

When politicians from all parties agree that concessions will have to be made, why do they also insist that the day of reckoning must be postponed? One part of the answer in this case is to be found in that fateful day, a year ago, when, in its special Saturday debate, a "united"

House of Commons dispatched the Task Force to recapture the Falklands. Its *éclat* was part of a theatrical self-deception which continued in the weeks that followed.

It would have been reprehensible to have sent men to their deaths for a colony that it was already policy to give away. The objection was succinctly put by a colour sergeant whom Max Hastings skilfully quoted: "If a place is worth dying for, it's got to be worth keeping." These words may remain to haunt the House of Commons for, from that Saturday onwards Conservative, Labour and SDP politicians all covered up their previous policies, so that revenge for the national humiliation could be meted out in the colours of principle.

Perhaps the best way of illustrating their deception is

through the words of James Callaghan. In January this year, on the day the Franks Report was published he put the following point to Thatcher: "On the major question, doesn't it really come down to this — that all parties for many years, including your own government [and also his own] have been prepared to give up sovereignty of the Falklands provided we can get a substantial period of lease-back."

During the war itself this was precisely the point made by those opposed to the fighting. For example, in one of the few speeches of merit at the time, Andrew Faulds noted the fact, during the debate on May 20, 1982. It was the eve of the landings, and he was arguing against a military solution: "We should frankly admit

that for 20 years we have been trying to withdraw from this outpost of Empire if we could decently concede sovereignty."

It might be thought that this is a fair version of Callaghan's later description of "the major question." But who should have interrupted Faulds then, at just that point in his speech, but Callaghan himself: "I completely deny that myth which now has such currency that I doubt whether it will ever be corrected. Certainly the administration with which I was connected between 1974 and 1979 never made any such proposal or had any such intention.... Such a proposal was never made, nor was it thought of so far as I am concerned."

What calls for emphasis is not the particular record of Callaghan, whose role in the affair can be left to others but the general, shared dissimulation which his conflicting interventions illuminate. We may reasonably hypothesize that those MPs who desire a sensible solution need delay not just because they would be opposed unremittably by the Falkland fanatics in the Commons, but mainly because if they argued for a resolution now, their own duplicity would be exposed. In a few years time, however, the intricacies of 1982 will be less worrisome and the words of the colour sergeant will have faded.

But can the Falklands be finessed in this manner? Is time on the British side? So far as Argentina is concerned, delay seems to be the best way of asking for another round. But just as important, as Ulster has shown, those obsessed with British sovereignty will always fight for every inch of it. At some point, then, their arguments will have to be met at full tilt.

The answer will lead us to a more fundamental reason for British commitment to the Falklands "for several years to come." Disposing of the islands really means disposing of certain fantastic ideas about Britain's world role: it should really mean stripping away the global illusions of what is not inconsiderable but still second-rank European power; illusions which in its own way the Labour front bench also shares. In short to apply a rational solution to the small islands in the far off South Atlantic will mean getting to grips with the overall irrationality of British national politics here at home.

Anthony Barnett is the author of *Iron Britannia*.



A taste of home for Sgt Mike Poole, of the Royal Engineers, buying fish from Port Stanley's first mobile fish-and-chip shop, which has been started by Midge Buckett (right) and Crystal Mercer.

HERCULES DIVERTED TO BRAZIL

By PATRICK WATTS
in Port Stanley

BAD weather forced an RAF Hercules on a reconnaissance mission from Port Stanley to fly nearly 2,000 miles for an emergency landing in Brazil.

Another Hercules with more fuel aboard circled the Falklands for eight hours before landing. Two Phantoms also airborne at the time returned to Port Stanley before sea mist closed the airport.

Reciprocal agreement

Another RAF Hercules which was carrying out the daily airbridge flight from Ascension Island to the Falklands was forced to turn back and a Defence Ministry spokesman said it was diverted to Brazil.

He added that Britain had a reciprocal agreement with Brazil in the event of emergencies and that the RAF did not use Brazil on a regular basis. There have been other occasions when the Hercules on flights from Ascension have had to use Brazil because of bad weather in the Falklands.

Daily Telegraph
28 March 1983

Islanders lean on absentee landowners

From John Ezard
in Port Stanley

A policy formalising and strengthening legal powers for compulsory purchase of absentee and Argentine-owned farmland was adopted yesterday by the democratic wing of the Falkland Islands Government as the islands neared the first anniversary of the Argentine invasion.

The move was made by the legislative council with the unanimous backing from elected members and officials and without objection from the civil commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt. The resolution declared that it was in the public interest for

the government to purchase land needed by people who wanted to buy or farm it.

Sir Rex already has so far virtually unused constitutional power of compulsory purchase, but yesterday's decision aims to establish this as general government policy. It now has to be passed formally by the islands' cabinet, the executive council, but Sir Rex is not expected to use his right of veto.

The islands' government and that in the UK have so far been cautious about compulsory purchase of under-used absentee and Argentine assets because of fear in Whitehall

about tit-for-tat action against British expatriate property in Argentina.

One of the biggest Port Stanley hotels, the Globe, has remained derelict for three months in a town desperate for accommodation and social facilities because its Anglo-Argentine owner refuses to sell. Legal advice is now being taken about whether this can be compulsorily bought or leased at a fair price by Everards Brewery, which has just introduced real ale here.

Urging support for yesterday's farmland motion, Mr Tony Blake, councillor for the

whole rural Falklands, said there was insufficient land on the market to meet demand. A survey has found that at least 59 islanders want to buy land in the wake of the Shackleton report and the prospect that government or commercial loans will soon be easier to get.

Mr Blake stressed that the policy was not aimed at specific companies or landowners, by which he was understood to mean chiefly the predominant Falkland Islands Company.

The government chief secretary, Mr Dick Baker, said the policy was "the right way to go forward."

Councillors and officials hope that land will come voluntarily on the market, with compulsory purchase in reserve only as a big stick in the back-ground. Some 300,000 acres in West Falkland and San Carlos, part of it absentee-owned, have already come up for sale this year after prodding from local government and the overseas development minister Mr Timothy Raison. Some 150,000 acres have already been bought by the two governments for £500,000.

In his post-liberation progress report to the council, Sir Rex said he wanted to scotch UK television misreporting

about an exodus from the Falklands before it became folklore in Britain.

He said latest figures showed that 30 permanent residents had left and 56 had returned to live permanently on the islands, a net gain of 26. This, he said, compared very favourably with normal pre-invasion years.

Of those who had left, two families had decided to go before the invasion, one had joined the British army, five went to seek jobs, a girl went to marry, and the rest departed for retirement or medical reasons.

Some other Falklands factors

by Sir Arthur Bryant

Just over a year ago the following article appeared under huge headlines on the front page of the *Daily Mail*. "As Fleet shrinks a bounty for sailors. £50,000 TO LEAVE THE NAVY. Five hundred Royal Navy officers and senior ratings are being offered up to £50,000 tax-free to quit the service. A call for volunteers to cut redundancy is part of the plan to trim the Navy by up to 10,000 men over the next four years. If annual targets are not met, compulsory redundancy will be introduced, and those who leave—mostly aged between 35 and 50—will get a tax-free lump sum of 18 months' pay plus a grant depending on seniority and length of service. . . . Sailors in ships and shore bases in Britain have been sent details of the scheme."

This was part of a financially-minded Minister of Defence's well-advertised plan to run down the Navy in the interests of economy and Treasury policy. Three months later General Galtieri launched his 20th-century Spanish—or, racially speaking, Italian—Armada against the British Falkland Islands, at that time defended by a score of Royal Marines without so much as a guardship or sloop to support them on the water. Indeed the loudly proclaimed withdrawal of the *Endurance* from the scene and the refusal of our Defence Minister, with the Treasury's tacit support, to yield to the Foreign Secretary's plea to retain her as a "keep-off" warning to the bellicose would-be Argentine invaders, was almost the only point in the report of the Franks Committee in which some criticism was expressed, or rather implied, of our Government's failure to foresee the thunderbolt about to be launched in the South Atlantic.

What then so surprisingly happened was not a humiliation for an Ethelred-the-Unready 20th-century Great—or rather Little—Britain and its Government, but a miraculous and triumphant justification of both. For its leader, Britain's first woman Prime Minister, who was not, like General Galtieri, a dictator but only, in the British constitutional mode, *primus inter pares*, like an inspired Old Testament prophet suddenly—in the midst of her long and valiantly maintained campaign to convert a spendthrift nation to the crying need for economy—stopped saying, "Can we afford to operate a Navy in the remote and costly South Atlantic?" and said instead, "In the face of shameless, lawless aggression and the subjection to tyrannical invaders of a remote, peaceful and helpless British community, can we afford not to?"

Everything that has since happened, including the Franks Report, has proved how right she was in all she said

and did. For at that brave woman's recall to reality, historic Britain suddenly became herself again. The Royal Navy, including many of the ships and men scheduled and announced—so provocatively and temptingly from an Argentine dictator's point of view—as being about to be discarded in the interests of financial prudence, without a moment's hesitation embarked on the most hazardous major operation in its entire history. Setting sail at only a few days' notice on an 8,000 mile voyage into tempest-tossed Antarctic wintry seas, it prepared to launch, without either a naval or an air base, a landing on rocky, storm-swept shores held by a vastly superior and well equipped military force supported by land-based aircraft and a fleet. And on arrival at its bleakly inhospitable and perilous destination, all attempts of Britain's pacific Government to end the dispute with the lawless aggressor by diplomatic means having failed, the Royal Navy, with a speed and resolution which could not have been surpassed had Drake or Nelson been in command, put ashore, with its supplies and weapons, an amphibious force of nearly 5,000 Royal Marines, paratroops and soldiers. And then, while the Navy, with its two vulnerable but indispensable aircraft-carriers and supporting Merchant Navy transports and supply ships, maintained its blockade of the islands against the fiercest air attacks ever launched against a blockading naval force, giving as good as it took and better the little army it had conveyed to its remote destination, reinforced by a brigade of Scots and Welsh Guards and Gurkhas, proceeded under General Moore to fight a land campaign as swift and brilliant, as well as heroic, as any in our military history. And that in the most difficult and

forbidding terrain anywhere on earth against a strongly armed adversary of twice its size. And to do so within a time-scale dictated by the blockading fleet's physical inability to maintain its perilous position so far from a base, and in the face of its inevitable but heavy losses, for more than a modicum of time. Anyone who wants to realize the speed, splendour and indomitable heroism of that swift campaign should read the deeply moving pictorial account of it by the official war artist who accompanied the expedition, Linda Kitson.

Nothing in our history has ever been accomplished more successfully and swiftly. And the feat was performed by young soldiers, sailors and airmen whose well-nigh perfect professional training by those very officers whose services the Treasury and Minister of Defence, had been so anxious to discard—without the rest of the nation having had any idea that its younger members had made themselves, with such arduous perfectionism and enthusiasm, the finest fighting men on earth. Yet as the Franks Report makes clear, the dilemma which faced Britain's political rulers before the campaign was a seemingly insoluble one and remains so. It lies in the total incompatibility of the Falkland Islanders' stubborn and uncompromising refusal to accept Argentine rule—now even greater after their horrifying experience at the invaders' hands—with the expense and uselessness to an empire-shorn and penurious United Kingdom, as viewed from a Whitehall administrator's window, of these unfertile islands at the other end of the world. For however baseless the Argentines' hysterical claim to our ancient sovereignty of the islands, there seemed, from an English civil servant's point of view, nothing to be said for

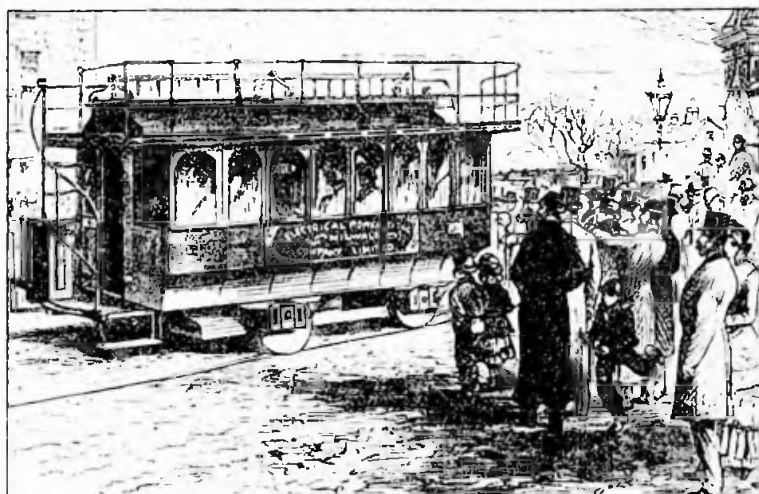
keeping it and almost everything to be said against.

Yet though there is nothing but an anachronism in viewing the Falklands as a British imperial possession or colony, there is everything to be said for envisaging its future as part of the free, self-governing and multi-racial Commonwealth of Nations which grew out of that empire. And the Queen in her Christmas message to the Commonwealth put the matter in its historical perspective. At first sight, she said, there did not seem much connexion between the Norman castle built by William the Conqueror from which she was broadcasting, her presence last autumn at the Commonwealth Games in Australia, and her subsequent voyage to what she so feelingly described as "those beautiful Commonwealth island countries in the Pacific". But, in fact, as she pointed out, they were all linked with one another by ocean. "William became the Conqueror after invading England by sea. It was the voyages of discovery by the great seamen of Elizabeth I's day which laid the foundations of modern trade, and to this day 90 per cent of it goes by sea."

"Discovery and trade in their turn laid the foundations of the present-day Commonwealth. . . . Such names as Drake, Anson, Frobisher, Cook, Vancouver and Phillip are familiar to people in widely different parts of the Commonwealth, while in Britain we owe our independence to the seamen who fought the Armada nearly 400 years ago and to Nelson and his band of brothers who destroyed Napoleon's dreams of invasion. Nor could the great battles for peace and freedom in the first half of the 20th century have been won without control of the seas. Earlier this year, in the South Atlantic," she continued, "the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy enabled our sailors, soldiers and airmen to go to the rescue of the Falkland Islanders 8,000 miles across the oceans and to reveal the professional skills and courage that could be called on in defence of mankind's basic freedoms."

For that is the real core of the matter. And there is a further point. To the two great maritime English-speaking nations of the free West, the United States and Britain, the possession of a naval base in the Falklands may seem of little importance at the moment when the strategic danger point of the grand alliance against Soviet Russia lies in Scandinavia and the Baltic. But in 10 years' time, in the event of the Panama Canal passing into a dictator's hands, the possession of an Anglo-American naval base in the Falklands may be an even more essential key to the global freedom of the seas than it was when Chatham saw it, more than two centuries ago, as England's door to the still unexplored Pacific and her right to found new nations of free men there.

100 years ago



The first tram to be run on electricity was demonstrated on March 12, 1883, and illustrated in the *ILN* the following week. Journeying between Kew and Acton, it had to be aided by horses on ascending gradients but nevertheless the trial "demonstrated the practicability of this application of electricity".

The Times Saturday March 26 1983

Police searching for editor

Junta accuses Britain of plot

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Argentine Government in related developments, has ordered the arrest of a magazine director and accused Britain of organizing a "destablization campaign".

In a big police swoop on Thursday night, the offices of the company which published the weekly magazine *La Semana* were sealed off. The police were looking for the editor, Señor Jorge Fontevecchia, and a decree has been issued banning the circulation of the latest issue of the magazine, which carried an interview with Captain Alfredo Astiz, who commanded the Argentine garrison on South Georgia, until he was taken prisoner by the British.

Señor Fontevecchia could not be found on Thursday and Interior Ministry sources later said he was "on the run". Journalists in the building were held for hours and many were interrogated in an attempt to determine their editor's whereabouts. Police began to keep watch on Buenos Aires hotels and foreign embassies in an attempt to capture him.

Despite requests by journalists, officials did not reveal

what the formal charges against Señor Fontevecchia were, saying only that he was part of "a campaign to destabilize the democratization process".

Meanwhile, an Interior Ministry source said "this ministry has information originating in Britain about a campaign of destabilization being mounted in Argentina from London". The source added that "the origin of this information is directly linked to the Foreign Office", but he refused to give further details, saying only that the ministry would soon be releasing a "full report" on the subject.

The linking of Señor Fontevecchia and the alleged campaign by Britain is being treated with scepticism here. Like almost all Argentine publications, *La Semana* took an intensely nationalist line during the South Atlantic fighting and was never known for having any kind of "British connexion".

④ The two branches of Argentina's trade union movement have called a general strike for next Monday in protest at government economic policies

and to mark their dissatisfaction with a promised wage increase of 11 per cent.

On Tuesday a plenary session of the moderate wing of the Labour movement, known as the *Confederacion General del Trabajo Azopardo* voted overwhelmingly in favour of the strike.

Señor Ruben Pereyra, of the Water Workers' Union, who put the successful strike motion at the meeting, said that "the palliatives that this Government is offering are not enough. There is no alternative but to call a general strike and paralyse the country."

Sources in the militant wing of the union movement, known as the *Confederacion General del Trabajo de la Republica Argentina*, said that they too would call a 24-hour general strike for the same day. They added that they would also call a short stoppage and mass demonstrations for next Wednesday.

In this case, they are marking the first anniversary of the mass demonstrations on March 30 last year which were violently repressed by the regime of General Leopoldo Galtieri.

Bignone breaks the foreign policy rules

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

AS Gen Alexander Haig, the former U.S. Secretary of State, found out to his cost during last year's Falklands crisis, the one problem with Argentine foreign policy is that you are never really sure who is running it. Two weeks ago Argentina's parallel diplomacy—or multiple diplomacy as some local observers put it—reared its head again with a vengeance.

In his main speech before the Non-Aligned summit in New Delhi, President Reynaldo Bignone condemned South African apartheid, praised Cuba's President Fidel Castro, invoked the Palestinian cause, and implicitly stated his support for the plight of revolutionary movements in Central America by claiming the crisis there was a product of "social injustice." "My country does not accept a world view that reduces everything to a permanent ideological and military conflict between East and West," he summarised.

Back in Buenos Aires, a local magazine printed a cartoon showing a meeting between President Bignone, the Non-Aligned Movement's president, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and ET. "Bignone, phone home," advised the warm little monster from outer space.

A high-ranking naval officer commented: "If we had our way, Bignone should be sacked immediately on his return." Within the army and air force, other officers were also furious. The Public Information Service, the media watchdog represent-

ing all three services, censored out a piece of Argentine TV film of Gen Bignone's meetings with President Castro and Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader in New Delhi.

At the highest level of the military junta, there was reportedly a firm conviction that Gen Bignone had broken a sacred military rule by making a speech on the advice of the civilian Foreign Ministry, traditionally regarded as a mere instrument of the military.

Gen Bignone's speech was the most outspoken assertion of Argentine non-alignment made by any Argentine President since the Second World War when Gen Juan Peron adopted the "third position" doctrine. Gen Peron reasserted Argentina's traditional neutralism and defined a radical independence from both the Soviet Union and the U.S.

Much water has flowed under the bridge of Argentine foreign policy since Gen Peron's first Presidency, not least the changing nature of Argentine military governments. By assuming part of the rhetoric of Gen Peron, President Bignone has publicly contradicted the basic world view which sustained the military regime when it took power in 1976.

On that day the "third world war" between Western Christian values and Communism was produced as a *raison d'être* for the ensuing repression of the country's Left-wing guerrilla movements and anyone judged to be remotely

sympathetic to them. The "crusade" extended beyond Argentina's frontiers to include backing for a Bolivian military coup in 1980 and the sending of advisers to El Salvador.

The one joker in the pack of Argentine foreign policy over the past seven years has been the Soviet Union. Moscow has made sure that Argentine military officers and diplomats have turned a blind-eye by itself remaining mute at the United Nations on Argentine human rights violations. It also has key economic importance as the main purchaser of Argentine grain.

The rest of the Argentine military's sacred values were turned upside down by the Falklands war, and Gen Bignone's speech was in part a reflection of this. Argentina's confrontation with a Western power and its adoption of the anti-colonialist flag to justify its claim to the islands forced the military regime into links which were hitherto taboo. Sr Nicanor Costa Mendes, then the Foreign Minister, hugged President Castro in Havana, and Gen Galtieri, then President, sent Col Muammer Gadaffi of Libya an Argentine stallion. But for all its scyambles, the U-turn in Argentina's view of the world has remained ripe with contradictions.

The rhetoric has not been matched, for instance, with any substantial progress in breaking Argentina's dependence on the West. Its foreign debt is still tied to U.S. and British banks,

and Europe has re-established itself as a leading trading partner and investor.

The peculiar vested interests of military officers have also continued to equal and often outflank the lines drawn by civilian diplomats in their restructuring of the country's foreign policy.

Recently Gen Edgardo Calvi, the army Chief of Staff publicly reiterated the strong ties of friendship that still exist between the Argentine and South African armed forces and resurrected the concept of the South Atlantic pact—the theoretical agreement which binds the two countries in a common defence of the ocean.

The Foreign Ministry's rapprochement with Arab states has extended to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). But the Argentine army and air force have built strong ties with the Israelis. Tel Aviv reportedly has become one of the main sources for second hand Soviet military equipment and first hand Dagger fighter aircraft.

Recent reports from Central America suggest that Argentine military advisers are continuing to play a key role in the running of the Honduras army and police and the training of Right-wing Nicaraguan exiles. This violates the new relationship struck up by Argentina's foreign ministry with the Left-wing Nicaraguan Government during January's meeting of the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers in Managua.

By choosing to go personally

to the Non-aligned summit, Gen Bignone had hoped to underline the priority status which the Falklands issue still has in Argentine foreign policy. The aim—which was achieved—was to gather broad backing for an early resumption of negotiations with Britain on the future of the islands.

Privately, Argentine diplomats had insisted for several weeks that a categorical statement of non-alignment was necessary for Argentina to counterbalance successfully the intense lobbying carried out by Britain among the English-speaking African states. Gen Bignone's speech was thus opportunistic rather than ideological.

Such a view has clearly not been shared by members of the armed forces and events in New Delhi have thus been allowed to add to the uncertainty in the country's already highly-charged political atmosphere.

In Gen Bignone's favour is the support of the two major political parties, the Peronists and the Radicals. They have warmly welcomed the New Delhi speech as a faithful reflection of their own "anti-imperialist" sentiments, while urging the President to turn his views into something more tangible.

Said a veteran of the Argentine Foreign Ministry: "There won't be any cohesion in Argentine foreign policy until the military go and we have a democratic government."

Argentina reduces interest arrears

By Peter Montagnon

ARGENTINA IS rapidly bringing interest arrears on its public sector foreign debt up to date in order to pave the way for completion of a \$1.5bn (£1bn) loan from commercial banks.

Senior Argentine officials attending the Inter-American Development Bank annual meeting in Panama City, said that about \$200m-\$250m in back interest from December has been paid over the past two weeks. The authorities have now authorised payment on almost \$250m in back interest from January.

A prior condition of the loan is that Argentina be up to date with all interest payments at the time of disbursement. The country's economic stabilisation programme with the International Monetary Fund also specifies that debt servicing be current by June 30.

Commercial banks were yesterday due to present Argentina with a draft copy of the \$1.5bn loan agreement. The draft is still subject to negotiation but officials hope the loan can be signed in the second half of April.

Talks on the legal conditions of the \$1.5bn loan have proved difficult.

Argentina also still has to reach agreement with bank creditors on the refinancing of some \$1.4bn in short-term private sector debt.

D/Telegraph

22/3/83

FALKLAND MEDALS

Argentina's military Government decorated yesterday 777 officers and conscripts who fought in the Falkland Islands last year. There were 106 medals for wounded men and 597 for those killed. —
Reuter. TEL. 22.3.83

'Times' Friday 18 March 1983

Spotlight on Gibraltar

By Our Foreign Staff

The question of the sovereignty of Gibraltar was raised by Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, at his meetings with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, during talks in London yesterday.

Britain and Spain put different interpretations on the 1980 Lisbon Agreement which led to the lifting of restrictions on Gibraltar by the Spanish Government on December 17.

Spain is aiming to restore

Gibraltar to Spanish sovereignty but Britain insists that the wishes of the Gibraltarians must be respected. The Lisbon Agreement includes a clause by Spain insisting that sovereignty is restored through negotiation and a clause by Britain saying that the sovereignty will not be transferred unless the Gibraltarians wish it.

At a lunch in the Spanish embassy the two foreign ministers also discussed Spain's entry into the EEC.

'Miserable islands'

From Mr Graham Cadman

Sir, Your correspondent of March 1 is perhaps ill-advised to quote that portion of Charles Darwin's journal referring to the Falkland Islands. The picture is not quite so desolate and wretched as Darwin perceived and the suggested anniversary not quite as significant.

Not only is Darwin's assertion of the Falklands having a greater rainfall than the mountains of North Wales incorrect but in a footnote to the 1860 edition of his journal Darwin states that...."it appears that we took an exaggerated view of the badness of the climate of these islands."

Captain Robert Fitzroy, also writing in March, 1833, would appear to have agreed (reproduced in *The Falkland Islands Journal*, 1973): "the climate is exceedingly healthy. I can hear of no diseases

contracted on the Islands more serious than temporary colds."

Darwin's exaggerated view of the climate's evils may also mirror exaggeration in other Falkland matters. His journal entry refers not only to March, 1833, but also to March, 1834. Between these dates a series of murders and settlement lootings had been committed by a small number of gauchos and convicts, brought previously to the islands from South America. It is to these that Darwin refers when mentioning "runaway rebels and murderers."

These were subsequently captured by British forces and removed from the islands and a period of relative prosperity then ensued.

Yours, etc,

GRAHAM CADMAN,
48 Ham Meadow Drive,
Ecton Brook,
Northampton.
March 1.

'Guardian'

Friday 18 March 1983

Gibraltar pact 'on the rocks'

By Patrick Keatley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Spanish Foreign Minister, Mr Fernando Moran, has ended two days of discussions with Mrs Thatcher and Mr Pym in London — after which it appears that the Lisbon Agreement of 1980, on the future handling of the Gibraltar problem, is now suspended indefinitely.

Mr Moran said the Agreement should be called, merely, "the Lisbon statement of six paragraphs." It was not definitive. Mr Moran said he had not committed himself to the kind of full conference in Portugal that had been arranged by Lord Carrington and the previous conservative government in Spain.

"No date was fixed for a meeting when I saw Mr Pym last December. What we have now agreed is that we are going to continue to see each other. We are going to talk about many things," he said.

Mr Moran suggested that the agenda in London had covered other matters, especially the EEC. "Anglo-Spanish matters are not limited to Gibraltar," he said. At one point, when answering a Spanish reporter's question, Mr Moran said: "I firmly believe that Gibraltar is Spanish territory."

Nimrods may join Falkland forces

RAF NIMRODS may soon operate long-range patrols from the Falkland Islands after trials at the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down, Wiltshire.

The trials established that the Nimrod can land in Port Stanley's high crosswinds, and on matting laid there in place of a permanent runway.

D/Tel.
17/3/83

Gibraltar open border in doubt

By DAVID ADAMSON
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE full reopening of Gibraltar's border with Spain this year was in doubt once again as talks between Mr Pym and the Spanish Foreign Minister, Sr Fernando Moran, began in London last night.

British officials had anticipated that there would be a return to pre-1969 normality when Mr Pym and Sr. Moran meet again in April or May for full talks on the colony.

But a senior Foreign Ministry official in Madrid threw doubt on that scenario shortly before Sr. Moran arrived in London.

The Minister would seek "clarification" from Mr Pym and Mrs Thatcher, whom he will see today, on Britain's position on Spain's claim to sovereignty over the Rock.

Pedestrians only

He added that he did not think there was any possibility of Spain fully reopening the border until next year. Since Dec. 15 the border has been open to pedestrians only.

The official's comment implied two things. First, that Spain does not expect rapid progress on the sovereignty issue, and, secondly, that until it is satisfied there is a change in the British position it will not lift border restrictions.

The British position is that both sides agreed in Brussels in December to implement the April 1980 agreement.

Under this, both are obliged to start negotiations "aimed at overcoming all the differences between them on Gibraltar."

Spain reaffirmed its position on "the re-establishment of the territorial integrity of Spain."

Britain maintained its commitment to honour the democratically expressed wishes of the Gibraltarians, as set out in the preamble of the colony's constitution.

Falklands parallel

The situation has similarities to the position in the Falklands. Britain cannot discuss a transfer of sovereignty until the population is willing to accept it through a referendum or vote.

In the past, as the Spanish know, the Gibraltarians have almost unanimously rejected the idea of a transfer to Spanish rule.

Although the Foreign Office has played down Gibraltar's place on the agenda of yesterday's and today's talks, it is quite clear that Sr Moran has been instructed to seek answers which will determine whether it enters into full talks with Britain.

"We have been going round in circles and we want to see that broken," the Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying.

He was referring to the talks about talks which the British Ambassador in Madrid, Mr Richard Parsons, has been having with the Foreign Ministry.

Argentina to mark invasion

Buenos Aires (Reuter) - The Argentine Military Government has made April 4 a national holiday to commemorate the invasion of the Falkland Islands last April.

Argentina seized the islands on April 2, but the holiday will be on April 4 because April 2 is Easter Saturday. Military sources said the government was considering screening a television film about the fighting.

Falklands safeguards

From Lord Kennet

Sir, Mr Chalmers Wright (February 12) and Mr Malcolm Hill (February 25) both write that my proposal for the future of the Falklands - a United Nations Trusteeship combined with an extension of the Antarctic Treaty - would allow the islands to be flooded by Argentinian immigrants. The former is against this and the latter in favour of it.

But there is no reason why such a solution should allow it. The United Nations Charter states that each United Nations Trust Territory must have its own regime, suitable to its own circumstances. One may question whether a majority of the United Nations (or even of South American governments) would have any interest in insisting on unfettered Argentinian immigration. A looming Argentinian presence off Antarctica smells good to Argentina, but to few others.

Sir Donald Logan's objection (February 14) has more substance. The Antarctic Treaty does indeed allow military personnel to be freely used for scientific research. Yet long before the Falklands War the other signatories were worried about Argentina's use of military personnel in the Antarctic itself, and felt there was a case for some restriction of less than bona fide research under the Treaty. This case is greatly strengthened by the Falklands war, whether or not the treaty is extended to cover the islands.

Yours, etc,
WAYLAND KENNET
House of Lords.
March 9.

11445
16/3

Close encounter with a fine-tuned death machine

From John Ezard
in Port Stanley

HMS EXETER carried out a rare inshore refuelling on the Falklands the other day, providing a spectacle which transfixed those who saw it — sailors standing by every mooring rope with axes poised so that at a second's alarm, £150 million worth of Type 42 destroyer, sister to the lost Sheffield and Coventry, could get out of the vulnerable bay and into defensive action.

This is unofficially at least, peace-time. For the past fortnight Exeter's picket inside and outside the Falklands protection zone, with her sonar, her 200-mile radar and her Sea Dart missile chamber, which is kept ready at a constant 60 degrees fan-heist, has detected nothing

except Argentina going about her normal business.

Whatever alarms may have been generated in Fleet Street or Whitehall meantime, there have been no more than the usual shipping and air movements that Captain Hugh Balfour would expect. But what one has to remember out here is that — like the Germans and the Swedes — you live within an hour's reach of the enemy.

"We, as a country, are not used to that. On board here, you have to strike a nice balance between being relaxed and being very agile. Rather like democracy, it's the most difficult thing to do."

Exeter, which has had to adapt to this role from the NATO duties for which she was launched seven years ago, is one of the grey shapes which a bewildered

but very keen-eyed merchant seaman will very occasionally glimpse late at night on the horizon from one of the troop shuttle ships between Ascension and the Falklands.

It is a low profile job. Only the shuttle captains are told that she will be somewhere on escort. But Exeter leads the British squadron of undisclosed size which is on station to pre-empt air or submarine attack on the shuttle or its long-haul cargoes — "a security for such as pass on the seas, upon their lawful occasions," in the words of the old Navy prayer which her senior weapons engineering officer, Commander Allan Baird, is fond of quoting.

Exeter replaced Sheffield in the task force, and debriefed her survivors. As a result of "that initial shock," she now has things that

Type-42s lacked the day an Exocet turned Sheffield into a black smoke-filled cauldron without electrical power for her fire hoses, killing 20

She has heavy canvas smoke curtains on many doors and hatches, more isolation and dispersal of systems, more access routes, two more Oerlikons and more cannon, as well as an extra Chaff gun. Chaff, it is said, saved more lives in the task force than the books allow. And she is now confident enough to let visitors look her over.

You start on the bridge of this light (3,800 tons, according to the MoD brochure), thinly plated, fast (25,000hp Olympus engines yielding "speed in excess of 28 knots") destroyer. Looking at the ducts and trying not to be too widely overheard, you ask if they have

managed to do anything about the wiring and other flammable materials which caused — er — problems for Sheffield and Coventry.

Well, to some extent, says Allan Baird, but if a modern missile with some of its propellant still burning hits a vessel with 600 tons of diesel and many explosives aboard, even steel will get hot quite quickly.

The query is overheard by one of the young men (290-strong ship's company, average age 22) on the bridge. "It's a death trap," he murmurs.

Allan Baird doesn't mind them stepping on to the deck for more privacy, he says. "If you're hit, that's it. A missile will incapacitate a ship. If it hits low, in a soft place you are very lucky."

We go below to look at Exeter's own death-dealing

resources. You try to lift one of the 82lb cannon shells which are hefted by hand from a rack into the gateway of an automatic loading drum. In another room, looking through an inspection window, you are asked not to count the number of Sea Darts in the 16ft high, environmentally cosseted pre-launch chamber. There are quite a lot.

All of it still reduces down to the equation between a £200,000 missile and a £150 million ship. Exeter came cleanly out of that equation during the conflict, scoring four hits on five missiles. The retired land forces commander, Sir Jeremy Moore, has already said that fear of Sea Darts forced Argentine pilots to fly well below the height for which their bombs were fused.

Allan Baird adds that even

if the enemy adjusts its bomb fusing the disincentive is that the bomb is liable to detonate directly under the pilot. But he has come to the conclusion that in war luck is of greater significance than a great many other aspects.

"Who could have foreseen that the weather would be too bad for the Argentines to fly the day after the (San Carlos) landings?" And who — he agrees — could have foreseen that weather would clear when the Sir Tristram past whose blistered hull you have travelled on the way to the Exeter and Sir Galahad were disembarking at Fitzroy — although there, additionally, we were short of air cover.

Captain Balfour says Exeter is fighting "an enhanced Korea," not the European war she was designed to deter. It is a good

test of morale, which came together on Exeter during the conflict, and of leadership. "It's just another example of the flexible use of naval power. A corny phrase—but it's been borne out."

A few hours later Exeter slipped away. I think I can deduce where she has gone. I have a friend, newly made during the past month on the Falklands, on the civilian vessel concerned. I am rather glad to think that Exeter, with all her death-dealing and death trap propensities, may be somewhere near his horizon tonight, protecting him against the foreseeable and the unforeseeable—or trying to. But certainly like him, and almost certainly like everyone on the Exeter's squadron and on these islands, I wish it wasn't all so bloody necessary.

FIVE-DAY VISIT FOR FALKLANDS NEXT-OF-KIN

By Our Defence Staff

Thanksgiving services in the Falklands to be held during the visit by relatives of those who gave their lives in the war are to be spread over three days, starting at the end of the week after Easter.

About 580 relatives will be flown by British Airways to Montevideo, where they will board the Cunard Countess for the voyage to Port Stanley. The ship will be used as a floating hotel during their stay from April 9 to 15.

Of the 255 members of the Task Force who lost their lives, 64 have been brought home at the request of their next of kin. Seventeen were buried in the Falklands and the rest were buried at sea.

D/Tel
16/3/83

D/Tel 16/3/83 Chronic lack of Falklands helicopters

By PATRICK WATTS
in Port Stanley

THE chronic shortage of helicopters in the Falklands is inhibiting military training, Maj-Gen. David Thorne, the land forces' commander, said on local radio.

Owing to the shortage he had had to "slightly curtail" one or two recent exercises. The Select Committee on Defence emphasised while visiting the Falklands that they considered the helicopters issue to be a matter of importance.

Gen. Thorne said he expected the immediate pressure on helicopters would lessen when the building programme was completed around the end of April. This work was vital with the onset of winter.

But the pressure of work had also meant little opportunity for the troops to take rest or recreation.

Tour length cut

The length of a tour for most units would decrease from six to five months said Gen. Thorne. This would mean four months on station with the other month for travelling.

Emphasising that the housing of all troops before winter was very important, he said the arrival of a second floating accommodation block looked like being delayed. He understood it would arrive at the latter end of April, "a little bit later than I would have wished."

Gen. Thorne's successor, Gen. Keith Spence, will spend one year commanding the land forces and is expected to arrive on April 13. Gen. Thorne will leave after a nine-month tour.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

A Dalyell diversion keeps the war going

Stretching ahead yesterday lay three full parliamentary days of debate on the Budget, ending next Monday night with the prospect of some-thing which seems even longer: another speech by good Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Accordingly, the attendance was relatively thin. Cast around for a diversion, we arrived at Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Eccentric Labour). For at such times as this we are grateful for the fact that Mr Dalyell is still fighting the Falklands war. He flew yet another sortie yesterday during question time which preceded the dread onset of the Budget debate.

Mr Dalyell was an unequivocal opponent, from the very start, of the sending of Mrs Thatcher's task force nearly a year ago. In making clear his opposition at the outset, he cut a more noble figure than Mr Foot, Mr Silkin, Mr Healey and others among his seniors.

Theirs was a theory of war so complex as to make Clausewitz sound like one of Field Marshal Montgomery's pep talks. As far as one could grasp the Labour front benchers' strategy, they favoured the sending of the task force provided it sank Mrs Thatcher rather than any Argentine shipping, and as long as the principal responsibility for getting the Argentines off the Falklands being entrusted to Señor Pérez de Cuéllar or the now forgotten President of Peru.

The result of the Labour front bench strategy would have been exactly the same as the result of Mr Dalyell's, namely the presence on the islands, to this day of the Argentines, and, very probably, the absence from No 10 of Mrs Thatcher. (This latter was clearly the major Foot-Healey-Silkin aim.) But Mr Dalyell's motive was the purer, since unlike the front benchers, he all along made it plain that he did not believe the recovery of those islands was worth blood and treasure. Mr Dalyell has been making his position clear ever since. In questions, points of order and heckles, he has continued to wage the struggle. How much is the army down there really costing? What is the

truth about the sinking of the *Belgrano*? That kind of thing. The overwhelming impression is of a man possessed.

This effect is assisted by the fact that, perhaps because he defected to the Labour Party from Eton, he has a plummy voice, sometimes flying hair, and an excitable eye. Yesterday he had a question down to the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr David Howell, about "the figure of £880m estimated total expenditure on local transport in 1985-86." Mr Howell replied accordingly.

Understandably, he said nothing about the Falklands, since the question had nothing to do with the Falklands. But to Mr Dalyell all questions are about the Falklands. Did it occur to Mr Howell, he demanded, that this figure of £880m was "precisely the same figure" as the estimated sum being spent on an airport nearly 8,000 miles away (he meant the Falklands)? No, this had not occurred to Mr Howell.

Mr Dalyell sat back grimly, his suspicions confirmed.

Mr Barney Mayhew, the Minister for the Civil Service, arrived to answer questions. Mr Dalyell continued to lay in wait.

Mr Dalyell moved in to demand whether Mr Hayhoe had read a lecture at the London School of Economics by one such civil servant, Sir Anthony Parsons, our man at the UN during the Falklands war.

"The House must share my view that he is obsessed with his curious and ill-judged campaign about the Falklands," Mr Hayhoe replied. This grudging response failed to pay tribute to Mr Dalyell's endurance, in carrying on fighting long after the guns had fallen silent around Goose Green. Perhaps Mr Dalyell is essentially the same as those Japanese soldiers who, from time to time are discovered, on remote Pacific Islands, still believing that the Second World War is in progress.

Perhaps Mr Dalyell believes that the radio broadcasts from Buenos Aires and London announcing the Argentine surrender were just the work of Thatcherite propaganda experts.

SIX TIMES



A HERO

Queen's tribute to SAS man who stunned Argies

By JANET MIDWINTER

THE widow of SAS Falklands hero Captain John Hamilton collected his Military Cross and some words of comfort from the Queen yesterday.

The Queen told Mrs Victoria Hamilton that her husband had "won the medal six times over."

In one of the most astonishing tributes of the campaign, 29-year-old Captain Hamilton was recommended for an award by a captured Argentine colonel.

The colonel said: "I wish to commend that British captain for the highest possible bravery award."

Campaign

"He is without doubt the most courageous man I have ever seen."

Before he was killed 40 miles behind enemy lines on June 10 last year Captain Hamilton led some of the most successful SAS operations.

He survived two helicopter crashes in appalling weather and then led troops on to capture South Georgia back from the Argies.

He also led the raid on Pebble Island in the Falklands when 11 aircraft were destroyed on the ground.

But his bravery did not end there.

Citation

He and his squadron were sent behind enemy lines and it was while he was in charge of an observation patrol that he and his radio operator were surrounded.

He told his signaller they should both attempt to fight their way out despite being heavily outnumbered.

Even after he was wounded in the back he ordered his signaller to escape while he gave covering fire.

Victoria
Hamilton
with her
husband's
medal
yesterday

The citation says: "Captain Hamilton displayed outstanding determination."

"He furthermore showed supreme courage and sense of duty by his conscious decision to sacrifice himself on behalf of his signaller."

"His final, brave unselfish act will be an inspiration to all who follow in the SAS."



Sat 12 March '83

Red faces

over

Russian

flag day

on Thule

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

Defence Correspondent

THE RUSSIANS aren't noted for their sense of humour. And nobody was laughing much last night.

The Argentines kept silent. The Ministry of Defence in London was saying nothing. But the suspicion grew all the same:

It was the Russians who landed a raiding party on a tiny uninhabited British island off the Falklands, took down the Union Jack and ran an Argentine flag up the pole in its place.

Whether it was to amuse themselves or annoy us is anybody's guess.

The flag was on Thule — part of the Sandwich Islands, 400 miles south-east of the Falklands—which was the last outpost recaptured by the Task Force in the Falklands war.

The Union Jack was raised there last June by Marines from HMS Endurance. The tattered Argentine flag was found flying last December by the British survey ship HMS Hecate — but the news leaked out only on Thursday.

What makes Intelligence chiefs believe it was not the Argentines who made the sneak raid was the Union Jack clue.

Virtually undamaged, it was found neatly folded away under a rock near



AIR MAIL—CHANNEL Is. 19p. BELGIUM 35 B.F.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 15:
Mostly cloudy, bright or sunny
intervals. Wind S., light or
moderate. Max. 12c, 54f.
9. 10. 11. 12. 13: Cloudy,
some drizzle, hill and coastal
fog. Rain later. Wind S.,
moderate, increasing fresh.
S. 14.
S. 15.
moderate, increasing fresh.
Max. 11c, 52f.
14. 20. 21. 22. 25. 26. 28:
Cloudy with rain at times and
hill fog. Wind S., moderate or
fresh, locally strong. Max. 9c,
48f.
16. 17. 18. 19: Mostly cloudy,
with some drizzle and bright
intervals. Wind S., light or
moderate. Max. 11c, 52f.

Friday March 183

Navy moves in after spotting enemy flag flying on deserted island of Thule

ARGENTINE SNEAK RAID

Daily Mail Reporter

ARGENTINA has made a hit-and-run raid on the British dependency of Thule, 400 miles from the Falklands.

A party landed on Thule, part of the Sandwich Islands, took down the Union Jack and hoisted their own national flag before retreating undetected.

The Ministry of Defence said last night: 'We are not inclined to treat this incident as a serious indication of Argentina attempting to re-establish a presence on the dependencies.'

The sneak landing was discovered on December 19, when men from the survey ship HMS Hecate visited the tiny, uninhabited island and found the Argentine flag flying and the Union Jack folded and hidden under rocks. They re-hoisted the British flag.

Submarine

Then last month a Royal Navy

[illegible]

2/Mail Sat 5 March

Falklands widows to receive £30,000 to £50,000

HEROES FUND

PAYS OUT

By DAVID NORRIS

THE widows and other next of kin of the 256 men who died in the Falklands war are receiving their share of the South Atlantic fund at last.

The fund's secretary, Captain Tony Lambourn, confirmed yesterday that amounts ranging from £30,000 to £50,000 are being paid out.

Boycott threat

This follows months of bitterness at the delay in money being handed over.

The fund stands at £14.6 million and cash is still coming in at the rate of £2,000 a day. Its nine trustees have finished assessing the needs of the relatives

Falklands war fund pays up at last

amount to about £7 million, but the total to be paid to the 'but our col- ments were to Charity (

wounded has not been esti- mated. Whatever remains will be put aside in case there are claims in years to come from people whose injuries become worse as they get older.

Rosalind Balfour, widow of Lieutenant Commander David Balfour, killed on the money to pay for the education of their daughter Julia, aged five. 'People have been so very generous, she said.

but last night had still not been officially notified that the assessment process was complete. They were concerned not with their own payment, but with the hope that there would be a fair share for everyone.

Payments Atlantic Fu Ministry of and pension widows.

Captain Lambourn said that the trustees, had faced prob- lems in ensuring that pay-

The final payments to next of kin of those who died will

MOON AND SUN		MOON AND SUN	
45	Dubrovnik S 10 50	45	London S 10 50
44	Geneva C 4 39	44	London S 10 50
43	Gibraltar R 16 61	43	London S 10 50
42	Guernsey R 7 45	42	London S 10 50
41	Heligoland C 19 66	41	London S 10 50
40	Hongkong C 19 66	40	London S 10 50
39	Imbabura S 5 41	39	London S 10 50
38	London S 5 41	38	London S 10 50
37	London S 5 41	37	London S 10 50
36	London S 5 41	36	London S 10 50
35	London S 5 41	35	London S 10 50
34	London S 5 41	34	London S 10 50
33	London S 5 41	33	London S 10 50
32	London S 5 41	32	London S 10 50
31	London S 5 41	31	London S 10 50
30	London S 5 41	30	London S 10 50
29	London S 5 41	29	London S 10 50
28	London S 5 41	28	London S 10 50
27	London S 5 41	27	London S 10 50
26	London S 5 41	26	London S 10 50
25	London S 5 41	25	London S 10 50
24	London S 5 41	24	London S 10 50
23	London S 5 41	23	London S 10 50
22	London S 5 41	22	London S 10 50
21	London S 5 41	21	London S 10 50
20	London S 5 41	20	London S 10 50
19	London S 5 41	19	London S 10 50
18	London S 5 41	18	London S 10 50
17	London S 5 41	17	London S 10 50
16	London S 5 41	16	London S 10 50
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14	London S 5 41	14	London S 10 50
13	London S 5 41	13	London S 10 50
12	London S 5 41	12	London S 10 50
11	London S 5 41	11	London S 10 50
10	London S 5 41	10	London S 10 50
9	London S 5 41	9	London S 10 50
8	London S 5 41	8	London S 10 50
7	London S 5 41	7	London S 10 50
6	London S 5 41	6	London S 10 50
5	London S 5 41	5	London S 10 50
4	London S 5 41	4	London S 10 50
3	London S 5 41	3	London S 10 50
2	London S 5 41	2	London S 10 50
1	London S 5 41	1	London S 10 50

Dear General Galtieri . . .



As General Galtieri is in London on a flying visit to inspect some arms being shipped out from Britain to Argentina, to advise the British Army on new clothing equipment for the South Atlantic, and also to offer a few hints to Mr Joshua Nkomo, we have taken this opportunity once again to welcome him as our guest, answering your queries.

Would you consider it an intrusive question if I asked you exactly what sort of advice you are giving to Mr Nkomo? - R. J. of Bath.

Gen Galtieri writes: Not at all. It is the same advice I would give to any well-known politician who finds himself, through no fault of his own, thrown out of power. One, find a good publisher. Two, have at least one chapter of your book written already. Three, secure a good advance before you give them the real meat of the story. Also, I think it is very important to get good terms for the TV and film rights, in case Mr John Pilger should decide to make a programme about you, and to retain a veto over the choice of photographs which they use of you on the back of the book. Mr Nkomo, for instance, tends to pose against a dark background, which in his case I think is a mistake.

In all the books I've read about the Falklands War, we hear very little about things from the Argentine point of view. It seems extraordinary that nobody came to ask you about your side of things. - N.B. of Portsmouth.

Gen Galtieri writes: On the contrary, they all came to see me, but I would not see any of them. Mr Hastings alone spent

MOREOVER . . . Miles Kingston

a week camped on my lawn and tried for three days to get down my chimney. But why should I give them material which should only be in my book?

Galtieri is a funny kind of name. What does it come from? - L. Walters of London.

Gen Galtieri writes: As you probably know, many people in Argentina are of Italian origin. In fact, the very first white man to arrive in America, Christopher Columbus, was I believe an Italian from Genoa, hence the old joke. My name is derived from the Italian word for Walter, which means that my name is exactly the same as yours.

I'm very pleased to hear it. But what is this old joke you refer to? - L. Walters of London again.

Gen Galtieri writes: The old joke is as follows: My wife's gone to Italy. Oh, really - Genoa? Well, we see each other from time to time.

Have you ever been invited to appear on Desert Island Discs? - B D of Birmingham.

Gen Galtieri writes: You ask the invader of the Falkland Islands if he has ever been asked to make a desert island appearance? Mama Mia, the Malvinas make Mr Plomley's island look like paradise. It is a dreadful place, these Falklands, with hardly enough electricity to plug in a gramophone, hardly enough light to read the Bible and Shakespeare by, and not enough warmth to enjoy any luxury. We thought we were doing you a favour, taking them away like dustmen collecting rubbish. But, as usual, we overestimated the British.

What were your feelings about Sir Geoffrey Howe's budget? - N. S. of Newcastle.

Gen Galtieri writes: He is a brave man, your little civilian Treasurer. Without even a regiment to back him up, no tanks, no planes, he gets up and tells the country what to do. This is courage. At the same time, there are many gaps in his budget. There is no tax relief for footballers, so that they may bring back the World Cup. There is no knighthood for Max Hastings, the man who won the war for you. Sir Geoffrey did not close down the Sun

newspaper, the *Sun* of the Royal Family. All these things we would do in our budget. Above all, he has not taken VAT off tango dance studios, such as the one that I run in Buenos Aires.

Do you think Cambridge should have agreed to row in the Boat Race? - N. P. of Canterbury.

Gen Galtieri writes: Certainly. But first they should have taken care of this Boris, the Russian spy who rows for Oxford. Surely it is not beyond the wit of eight strong men to get him disappeared?

Gen Galtieri will be back soon to answer more questions. Keep those letters rolling in!

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 18)

ACROSS

- 1 Fed (6)
- 4 Mouth part (6)
- 7 Part of boat (4)
- 8 Loss of consciousness (8)
- 9 Powerfully (8)
- 12 Some (3)
- 15 Lyrical music (6)
- 16 Drink (6)
- 17 Golf aid (3)
- 19 Postscript (8)
- 24 Bullhandle (8)
- 25 Lighter (4)
- 26 Contract (6)
- 27 Rifle cleaner (6)

DOWN

- 1 Benefit (4)
- 2 Steep face (9)
- 3 Outline (5)
- 4 Move stealthily (5)
- 5 Lounge (4)
- 6 Poison (5)
- 10 Speed (5)
- 11 Crude person (5)
- 12 Verbal communicator (9)
- 13 Toy (4)
- 14 Minor station (4)
- 18 Era (5)
- 20 Pierce lightly (5)
- 21 Beer (5)
- 22 Military cap (4)
- 23 Coward (4)

SOLUTION TO No 17

- ACROSS: 1 Scarab 5 Kith 8 Imply 9 Retrial 11 Hornbeam 13 Ekes 15 Amazonian 18 Plod 19 Asterisk 22 Trounce 23 Tweed 25 Sexily
DOWN: 2 Caper 3 Ray 4 Barbarousness 5 Kite 6 Thicken 7 Bashed 10 Lash 12 Brat 14 Pine 15 Amorously 16 Spelt 17 Skate 20 Ideal 21 Onus 23 Tax

GUARDIAN



ester

Tuesday March 15 1983

23p

Falklands pioneers call it a day

From John Ezard
in Port Stanley

OF ALL the good and bad omens that have swirled through the Falklands in the past few weeks, none has caused more private unease and sheer sadness than a small item of property news: the Davidsons are selling Harrier House, and going back to Britain.

The price, for the islands' second ranking guesthouse at a boom time, is known. While it will not buy Don and Margaret Davidson much in the UK, it is a good one locally. But it has evoked remarkably little bitching, which is a measure of the respect which exists for the Davidsons's track record.

Instead, there is a sense that the Falklands, at a most crucial time and for the most

worrying of reasons, are losing two of the "best and the brightest" whom they need not only to attract but to keep — two of the younger pioneers, hard-working, intelligent, outspoken (though that is not always an asset here), resourceful, and, until recently, committed.

The Davidsons fought through years of stultification and neglect to build a business yielding a net income of some £14,000 a year. They are leaving because they have lost hope in the country where their three children were born, and with which they have links stretching back 20 years.

"The most important thing is that since the war we have become more realistic," says Margaret, who is 34. "We are not living in a fool's par-

adise any more, although some people here still are.

Britain is shoring up a very expensive ivory tower here. You have to ask yourself whether the way of life is worth the trouble it has caused Britain, and all the deaths. And I don't believe it is — not such a half-formed way of life," Don, who is 43, puts in: "The way of life is not worth a single death."

Margaret says: "I do not believe this place is going to change. It is going to remain a go-slow colonial regime — a manipulated, small, dying population. I do not yet believe the Foreign Office is serious about it. They are talking of bringing in a couple of hundred more people to live. But what this place needs isn't a tonic, it's drastic surgery."

The Davidsons have a name for putting their views strongly, as their evidence to the visiting Commons foreign affairs select committee will show when it is published. But their case rests on more than rhetoric. They settled here 11 years ago, and built up a thriving market garden — just the kind of business for which the troops are now desperate — on West Point, the most isolated westerly isthmus of West Falkland, with its place names like Cape Terrible.

Don, from Inverness, had had Falklands postings since 1962, first as a met officer, then with the Antarctic survey. On a later posting to New Zealand, he met Margaret, an horticultural adviser from Wolverhampton. Within six months of mar-

riage they went to live on West point, where they had only £200 between them and the company of one other family for only part of the year. They contracted "a bad case of islanditis — we loved the place."

They put up nets to shelter their seedlings and planted hedges for permanency on their rented plot. But the problems underlying enchantment soon began. They needed a tractor. They asked the Falkland Islands Government to lend them £2,000. The Government, in the absence of banks the only source of loans, refused.

They raised £2,500 — "almost everything we had in the world" to buy a second-hand tractor. It turned out to be a dud. They

Turn to back page, col. 4

Two of the Falklands pioneers have decided to call it a day

GUARDIAN 15.3.1983

Continued from page one

struggled on, and after five or six years made a success of this remote place. But they were still renting. "We wanted our own piece of land to set down our roots. All we ever wanted was 20 or 30 acres."

They went to the Falkland Islands Company, which owns 45 per cent of the country, to Bluff Cove and to Roy Cove, where, ironically, there is today a promising land subdivision project. "We tried all the major outlets, but no one would sell us 20 or 30 acres." Eventually they settled for the best of a bad lot — a 10-year lease on their West Point plot.

Their energies turned elsewhere. The one thing you could get in those days was a Government House purchase loan. They bought a rundown Port Stanley place to use as a town house. Later — but only by the skin of their teeth — they got a £20,000, 7 per cent loan to buy a house called the Malvinas, with an acre of vegetable garden. They began taking guests to help repay the loan, and in their hands the business grew.

The Malvinas was successful long before its post-conflict change of name. But now, it is perpetually full, exacting a 17-hour working day from the Davidsons.

"We have just had enough," says Margaret. "We have both aged ten years in the last 21 years. We are not hostellers by inclination."

They want to return to market gardening. The proceeds of selling Harrier House would buy them a substantial land stake here. But the publicly known, visible tempo of development, and British commitment so far

disinclines them from sharing the confidence of some of their neighbours that "Those Phantom jets will never go away."

"We don't want to put our heart and soul into a small holding, and find within five years that we don't like the policy change that may come," says Don. Margaret adds: "We are going to have to negotiate with Argentina. I don't like that, but there is no other way. They are a bellicose, arrogant race, and they aren't going to give up. It would be different if a really separate way of life had evolved here, but I don't think that it has."

Don puts it: "It was developing its own culture 40 or so years ago, but so many people have left. Even 15 years ago there used to be regular local concerts, but there aren't now." The poor little place has been overtaken by the modern world before it has had time to get a soul of its own, Margaret believes.

A day after talking to the Davidsons I went to report a public meeting at the town hall — only the second political meeting anyone has organised since the conflict. Don was there too. From some of his questions, I realised with sadness that I knew considerably more than he did about the fairly rapid pace of development that is on schedule here. I had been free to wander around talking to people for three weeks. He and Margaret had been immured in a guest-house, looking after the Ministry of Defence and the vital people who are assembling the new Islander aircraft which will take the strain off the existing Beavers and military helicopters.

That is wretched, because the Davidsons, not me, are people who matter to the future. It is a byproduct of the almost inconceivably bad dissemination (by UK terms) of written public information here.

There is a more deeply rooted irony that Davidsons' departure was a frequently lamented topic of conversations among the VIPs from Britain who swarmed at Government House last month on parliamentary visits, and for the anniversary celebrations. But the only VIP who actually talked to them was Lord Shackleton, who took the trouble to call on them. Margaret once wrote an official report for him on horticulture.

The reason for this is straightforward. The Davidsons are not on the Government House invitation list.

At one of our interviews, I suggested to them that this could not be because of their outspokenness. After all, one of our equally outspoken mutual acquaintances had recently driven the Civil Commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, into such a rage that he reportedly stormed out of one of his own dinner parties. Yet she is invited back.

"Oh, that's very simple," Margaret says. "Her husband is a head of department. We, in the eyes of Government House, are only cooks."

And this inevitably because they are people who judge things subjectively, is part of what they mean by the soul and culture of the Falklands as they have experienced it over the past 11 years.

"If someone had seriously appealed to us on a 'we think we can build the place up together' basis, I think we might have stayed," says Don. "But they didn't."

FALKLANDS BANK

By Our Political Staff

The Standard Chartered Bank is to open a branch in the Falklands in July. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, said in a Commons written answer yesterday. It will be the first branch of a major bank in the islands.

REPLYING QUEST
D-T. 15-3-83

MARCH 15 1983

Argentine churches invite Briton to discuss peace

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Dr Philip Morgan, a senior British church leader, will visit Argentina next month to arrange a joint study of the tensions between the two countries and how they might be eased.

Dr Morgan, who is general secretary of the British Council of Churches, will carry with him a written introduction signed by Cardinal Hume, in the hope that the Roman Catholic leadership in Argentina will take part in a meeting.

He has been invited by the Consultative Council of Churches in Argentina, of which the Roman Catholic Church is not a member.

It was, he said yesterday, important to the success of the peace initiative that it should not be confined, on the Argentine side, to the relatively small non-Catholic churches in the country. British Catholic support for it would be forth-



Cardinal Hume: Letter to Catholic leadership.

coming when the time came, he believed.

The British Council of Churches will be proposing to its Argentine opposite number that they should jointly sponsor a meeting of church representatives in a third country, and possibly a series of meetings after that.

The differences between the

two countries over the Falkland Islands would be discussed, with the initial hope that each side would see the other's attitude more sympathetically.

The British churchmen taking part would probably argue the view that the rights of the Falkland Islanders had to be defended, Dr Morgan said. The Council of Churches in Argentina has consistently maintained that the Falklands are sovereign Argentine territory.

The visit to Argentina is likely to be discussed with the Vatican when a British Council of Churches delegation visits Rome later next month at the invitation of the Pope. Peace in international relations is the top item on the agenda.

Dr Morgan, who will also lead that delegation, said it was part of the search for the right relationship between the council and the Roman Catholic Church, and the various items on the agenda would be discussed in that light.

Apart from peace, they are:

marriage; the uniqueness of Christianity; how faith is received and understood; the spirituality of the ecumenical movement and the general issue of Roman Catholic relations with councils of churches.

It is the first such formal meeting between a national council of churches and the various Vatican departments.

The British delegation will include the Most Rev Alastair Haggart, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the Rt Rev John Habgood, the Bishop of Durham; Dr Kenneth Greet, secretary of the Methodist Conference, and the Rt Rev Alan Clark, last Roman Catholic chairman of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission.

The statement announcing the membership of the delegation described the visit as an opportunity for "all the British churches to think through the international dimensions of the unity which they are seeking."

Parents of lost soldiers head for Europe

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Relatives of missing Argentine servicemen who fought in the Falklands are sending a delegation to Europe in search of information on their fate.

The delegation, led by Señor Isaias Gimenez, believes that many servicemen officially listed as "disappeared" in the fighting, and later described as killed in action by the high commands of the three forces, may still be alive.

The delegation plans to visit France, Italy and Spain. It hopes to obtain an interview with the Pope and, if Britain grants its members a visa, will seek an audience with Mrs Thatcher.

The relatives base their hopes on several theories. Señor Gimenez, for example, believes that his son, Miguel Angel Gimenez, the pilot of an Argentine Air Force Pucará fighter, may be held as a hostage by British forces. He speculates that Argentina, in turn, may be holding British servicemen, perhaps commandos caught in Patagonia during the war.

The Air Force first reported Miguel Angel as missing, informing his parents that it was highly probable that he had "died heroically in combat". The father refuses to accept this. He has gone over the few details

that are known of his last mission over the Falklands, and insists there is no record of him being shot down.

Similar hopes are held by relatives of 24 Argentine sailors in the General Belgrano, which was torpedoed and sunk during the fighting. Most of the crew of the Belgrano who were not rescued were first officially described as "disappeared" by the Argentine Navy, and last November the High Command announced that they should now be considered officially dead. Posthumous medals were awarded to all the crew, except for the group of 24.

This decision, never fully

explained by the Navy and led the relatives to hope that the group had survived, and either are now being held as prisoners by the British, or were rescued by Soviet or Polish fishing vessels, and have been unable to make contact.

The parents have formed a group known as Relatives of Those who Disappeared in the Malvinas (Falklands) and say that until now they have not had a satisfactory explanation of the servicemen's fate.

Officially, the Argentine armed forces maintain that there are no prisoners or undisclosed survivors left from the fighting.

SPECIAL

Falklands Bill

The Commons gave an unopposed third reading to the British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Bill, a Private Member's measure originating in the Lords to give British citizenship to all the Falkland islanders.

The House rose at 3.02 p.m.

DAILY

EXPRESS

Friday March 11 1983

18p

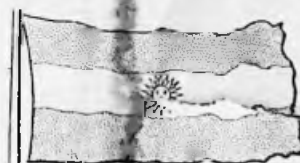
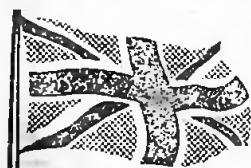
Weather: Dry, mild.

THE VOICE OF BRITAIN



EXCLUSIVE

Smashed! ARGENTINA'S SNEAK INVASION



ARGENTINA has landed a raiding party on a British island off the Falklands, it was revealed last night.

The sneak invaders tore down the Union Jack, ran up their own national flag and then beat a hasty retreat.

Britain hit back by sending in troops who destroyed most buildings on the uninhabited island in case Argentinian commandos try to set up a base there.

All that the British have left standing are two beacons, a refuge hut and the flag pole — with the Union Jack fluttering back on top.

The junta's hit-and-run raid was on the tiny British dependency of Thule, part of the Sandwich Islands, 400

By MICHAEL EVANS Defence Correspondent

miles south-east of the Falklands.

Thule was the last British outpost recaptured by the Task Force in the Falklands war.

Military chiefs in the Falklands have been on full alert for months because of intelligence reports of possible commando-style strikes.

The Argentinian under-cover operation is believed to have been carried out by submarine or ice patrol ship.

The raid came to light when an RAF Nimrod reconnaissance plane from Ascension Island spotted Argentina's flag flying in place of the Union Jack over Thule's former scientific base.

Crew from the hydrographic survey ship Hecate found the

British flag buried under rocks. There was no trace of Argentinians on the island.

So two weeks ago the British frigate *Ariadne*, under Commander David Evans, and the Royal Fleet auxiliary *Tidespring*, on patrol round the Falklands, were sent to Thule.

Troops were put ashore to destroy the old base. They removed the junta's blue and white flag and restored the Union Jack.

The sending of a mini-task group to Thule was kept quiet. But last night the Ministry of Defence confirmed that the mission took place.

British military commanders do not regard the incident as a prelude to a new invasion of the Falklands. Clearly it

was a gesture of defiance by the junta.

But it is a sign that the Argentines have no intention of leaving alone the British territories.

This was underlined in New Delhi yesterday when Argentina's President Reynaldo Bignone pleaded with the world's non-aligned nations to support his declared intention to seize back the Falklands.

He said that Britain thought the war had settled the issue but "nothing was further from reality."

In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher appealed to President Reagan not to resume arms sales to Argentina until the junta has declared a permanent end of hostilities.

American envoy William Middendorf flew to London last night seeking British agreement in principle to discussions with the junta on the Falklands future.

HECTOR BREEZE



"They can't possibly win—it's only a matter of time before they run out of flags."

Times
11/3/83

Bignone tells non-aligned summit Argentina will recover Falklands

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi

Argentina is determined to recover the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, President Reynaldo Bignone of Argentina said at the summit of the non-aligned movement here yesterday.

"Their decolonization and recovery is our permanent and prior aim. Their rights, dignity and interests are severely damaged by British colonial presence", he asserted.

President Bignone blamed Britain for failing to respond to Argentine offers to negotiate, adding that Britain "intends to justify its intransigence by the supposed logic of recent events". Last year's war, he said, demonstrated the urgent need for a political solution to the dispute over ownership.

"My Government hopes the British Government will come to a similar conclusion". He added that Argentina and Britain should start negotiations as soon as possible, with the cooperation of the United Nations Secretary-General.

He accused Britain of introducing weapons into the South Atlantic. "Latin America, until yesterday feeling safe under the protection of a nuclear-free zone, can no longer be confident. The United Kingdom, violating all agreements, clearly deployed, and deploys nuclear arms in the Malvinas area."

President Bignone characterized British possession of the

Falklands as a "damnable form of domination, an anachronistic demonstration of colonialist expansion," and recalled that Argentina's "just title" to the islands had been backed by the non-aligned movement.

He said the 1,800 Falkland islanders were "a colonialist expression implanted through force by the exploiting power."

Britain, he said, had shown a total lack of will to solve the sovereignty question and "incomprehensible insensibility" to the importance it had for the people of Argentina.

"The British delayed diplomatic solutions to the conflict while inducing the Argentine Government to believe negotiations were genuinely going ahead," he said.

The President added that in spite of international opinion favouring prompt reopening of negotiations Britain intended to consolidate its dominion over territories "usurped" from Argentina.

"This policy, with its obvious dangers, includes the establishment of a military base in the islands, an illegal and arbitrary exclusion zone against Argentine civil and military ships and planes, and provocative attitudes and statements against Argentina and Latin America."

He said Britain was wrong to think the results of the war were definitive. "If the United

Kingdom has an expansionist plan in the South Atlantic, transforming the area into an operations theatre of the Cold War, it will only see greater deterioration of its international position and the firm opposition of both Latin American and the non-aligned countries.

"The return of the islands to Argentina is a common cause of Latin America which, united, has repudiated military aggression against my country," President Bignone concluded.

In its final declaration the non-aligned summit will back Argentina's "right to have its sovereignty over the Malvinas restored through negotiation" and will urge that Britain and Argentina start talks under UN auspices.

The declaration will say that the interests of the Falkland islanders should be considered. It will also condemn the "introduction and maintenance of nuclear weapons in the Malvinas region by the United Kingdom."

● GENEVA: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva made a formal request to the British Government yesterday for permission for the families of Argentine soldiers killed in the Falklands war to go to the islands and visit the graves of the fallen. Alan McGregor writes.

ELLIOTT'S

column

F.A.C. ON FALKLANDS

Mr Dennis Canavan is Labour M.P. for Stirlingshire West; he is also a member of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, who have just visited the Falkland Islands. And guess who else was in the party ! ! None other than Mr Frank Hooley M.P., who made a significant, though not altogether popular, contribution to the Foreign Affairs Committee report on Gibraltar, not so long ago. The report of the visit does not mention whether Mr George Hills also accompanied the visitors to the Falklands as adviser, but I imagine that gentlemen's expertise is confined to the question of Spain and Gibraltar.

What was in fact mentioned, as one of the highlights of the visit, was that Mr Canavan, whose majority in the last election dwindled from 4844 to 367, nearly came to blows with Monsignor Daniel Spraggon OBE, the Catholic parish priest of Port Stanley. This was after the M.P. had told the official reception committee that Argentina had more right to the islands than Britain, that Mrs Thatcher had been responsible for the murder of 300 sailors on the Belgrano, and that Sir Rex Hunt was an imperialist British clown. Mr Hooley, of dire fame in Gibraltar, intervened for good measure to say that there was no future for small colonies like Gibraltar, Hong Kong and the Falklands. The third Labour member Mr Ffoulkes, remarked that the islanders' wishes were no longer paramount, and anyway Britain could no longer afford to maintain a garrison in the colony.

Three little englanders, of which there are so many in the left wing of British politics, which also produced in the two wars a good proportion of conscientious objectors; three primitive and unrepresentative members of the Labour left, of the kind who made it easy for people like Nkrumah, Amin, General Zia, and other bloodthirsty autocrats, to terrorise their countries, and leave a swathe of devastation and graft behind them. Of the kind to whom the forces of law and order are always wrong, and the terrorists always right; the white man always wrong, and the coloured always right, regardless of the merits or demerits of his case; even when he deports one million Ghanaians, or sends the boat people of Vietnam to their death. These are the kind of people who got rid of India before it was ready, thereby causing a million riot deaths; who "liberated" the old Empire and turned it into the Third World, and who now consider that the few small red dots left in Mercator's projection are so many expensive embarrassments to Britain, and should be disposed of without delay, regardless of the human rights of their inhabitants, or of the unequivocal promises and undertakings given them by successive British Governments.

It used to be a tacit understanding of conventional gentlemanly behaviour that British politicians, when visiting abroad, did not knock their Government, nor pronounce on its record or policies. The Labour left, however, make a big thing of despising any kind of high-principled and honourable consideration, and have denounced the Prime Minister and her Government as murderers, but conveniently neglected to say anything about Galtieri and his band of cut-throats. From our own experience of the foreign Affairs Committee, this is no surprise, but in the context of British integrity such irresponsible pronouncements, about the Falklands or about Gibraltar, can only encourage the claimant nations, and produce unpleasant situations. But, of course, running down their own country is part of their political make-up.

Argentines raise flag on island

Argentina has made a hit-and-run raid on the British dependency of Thule, 400 miles from the Falklands.

A raiding party landed on Thule, part of the Sandwich Islands, ripped down the Union Flag and hoisted their own flag before retreating undetected.

The Ministry of Defence said last night: "We are not inclined to treat this incident as a serious indication of Argentina attempting to re-establish a presence on the dependencies."

The landing was discovered on December 19, when men from the survey ship HMS Hecate visited the tiny, uninhabited island and found the Argentine flag flying and the Union Flag folded and hidden under rocks.

Thule, south-east of the Falklands, was the last British outpost recaptured in the Falklands conflict. Argentina was manning a scientific station there.

On June 20, a party from HMS Endurance removed all Argentine flags and hoisted the Union Flag. The Ministry of Defence said that heavy ice between June and December meant only a submarine or polar ship could have carried the raiders.

British forces were later sent to the island to destroy all but one small building "in view of the possibility that Argentina might seek to reoccupy the well-equipped base", the ministry said.

A spokesman added: "We are obviously not encouraging a presence there and we have taken the necessary steps".

Falklands prophecy, page 5

Whitehall

From
Miss Johnson D.A.

Wanted! Girls to rally Falkland troops

GIRLS are being urged to cheer up Britain's soldier heroes... by working in the Falklands.

Labour MP Dr John Gilbert, who has just returned from the islands, says there is a distinct lack of "marriageable women."

And he thinks the answer could be for young girls to work there.

Dr Gilbert, a former defence minister, believes many might be



Lady Hunt...
furious

attracted to farm work, or even serving in shops in Port Stanley.

He said: "I don't see why the Ministry shouldn't employ some girls as well."

F A L K L A N D governor's wife, Lady Mavis Hunt is furious she did not poison her juicy crop of grapes on the day the Argies invaded.

In an interview in Woman Magazine she says that if she had known the troops would eat them she would have covered them in arsenic.

Andrew Thompson on a South American monetarist's fall from grace

Argentina, gunning for the Chicago boys

Buenos Aires

In Argentina, monetarism has become synonymous with the deepest recession experienced since 1945. And the man who has attracted the most hostile press because of his links with the economic doctrine is Sr Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, old Etonian, "Superminister" of the Argentine economy between 1976 and 1981, as principal "Chicago Boy" - the man who invited international bankers to "Call me Joe".

In reality, 57-year-old Martinez de Hoz has never studied at the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago, nor was he a pupil of Milton Friedman, the guru of so many civilian technocrats employed by authoritarian regimes in the southern cone of Latin America in the second half of the 1970s. Only one member of his team of specialists, Sr Adolfo Diz, the Central Bank president did. But the group as a whole was inspired by monetarism and, with a clutch of bizarre court cases hanging over the head of Martinez de Hoz, the Chicago Boys are now considered the antithesis of the national interest.

The rise and fall of the Chicago Boys in Argentina is a key element in the country's wider political and social progress in the last 10 years. They are hated with an intensity comparable only to the welcome they received from a large proportion of the population, who saw them as saviours in 1976. No one is disliked as much as the prophet who fails to deliver the promised land.

The main charge against the Chicago Boys is that, despite their declared intentions, they created a system where speculation was more profitable than production.

In the first years, the team was relatively successful in enforcing a classic economic stabilization programme, reducing the central government deficit, benefiting from record agricultural exports, and building up important foreign reserves. But in 1978 a deliberate policy of allowing the Argentine peso to be overvalued was begun. The aim was to cheapen imports and therefore force a reduction in domestic inflation, which was still in three digits.

In addition, circumstances, this strategy would gradually increase trade deficits and eventually force a devaluation. But Martinez de Hoz had carried out a deep reform of the financial system in mid-1977, freeing interest rates and maintaining a state guarantee on deposits. The result was that interest rates shot up to record levels, attracting speculative capital from overseas which built up the foreign debt. Meanwhile, domestic industry felt the pressure, squeezed between

failing demand, cheap imports and unbearably high interest rates.

This was the "financial bicycle". The system could be kept going as long as new money kept flowing in and the foreign debt increased. The short-term benefit was the "strong peso" which encouraged Argentines to go on massive spending sprees abroad.

At home financial empires were built by buying and selling banks and companies. Speculation flourished, and millionaires appeared overnight financing their own companies with their own banks, creating massive houses of cards.

Interestingly, some of the new economic clans were profoundly disliked by the Chicago Boys. One such was the Banco de Intercambio Regional (BIR) which Sr Rafael Trozzo had built up from virtually

nothing to become the largest private bank in the country. In 1980 it entered a liquidity crisis, and the Chicago Boys closed it. Sr Trozzo, now in exile in Mexico, claimed that he was about to receive financial aid from abroad that would have saved him, but the Central Bank would not wait.

After the BIR, other banks and companies went bankrupt and the inevitable happened: the government was forced to devalue the peso. In 1980 inflation was brought down below three digits, but in 1981 it shot back up and last year with the South Atlantic war, the crisis deepened. Critics of the Chicago Boys maintained that they had attacked the symptoms, but not the causes of inflation, and in the process had managed to "destroy a large part of the country's industrial apparatus". Other detractors have

described Martinez de Hoz as a man who wanted to return Argentina to its original role as a primary commodity exporter, and "de-industrialize" the country.

The academic debate is far from over. Many of the measures taken by the team would not have been recommended by Milton Friedman, and there were other factors, such as the arms-purchasing spree by the armed forces, to take into account. But in political terms monetarism has lost its credibility.

Now out of office and back in private life (he has a wide range of business interests) Martinez de Hoz faces a host of court cases. A group of his advisers have just been indicted by a federal judge for "failing to fulfil the duties of a public official". Specifically, they are accused of irregularities in the state takeover of Banco los Andes in 1980. Another case has been brought against Martinez de Hoz and other officials for using the state oil company Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales (YPF) to borrow abroad heavily. YPF built up a debt of about \$5,000m. Its current president says he cannot understand why this was done, as Argentina is virtually self-sufficient in oil, and YPF expenditure is almost entirely in pesos. The company never received the dollars borrowed in its name, he says.

Yet another case, initiated by a federal judge, is in progress to define possible legal responsibilities for the massive increase in the foreign debt, which rose from \$8,000m at the end of 1975 to just under \$40,000m now. The critics point out that unlike Mexico or Brazil, Argentina got heavily into debt without growing.

Martinez de Hoz has also been accused of irregularities in the sad case of Caroline the giraffe. It is claimed that Caroline died a natural death in La Plata zoo. The official taxidermist is alleged to have mounted the giraffe's head and given it to Martinez de Hoz, therefore disposing of state property illegally. This case too is helping to clog up Argentina's slow and politically sensitive legal system.

Finally the Alliance between an important sector of the armed forces and the monetarist economists has been severed. For five years the military junta insisted that "the programme of Jose Martinez de Hoz is the programme of the armed forces". No-one says that any longer. In fact, Air Force officers recently leaked to the press the idea that Martinez de Hoz may be imprisoned.

The irony is that they are proposing to hold him "at the disposition of the executive power", under state of siege regulations, pending the resolution of the court cases. That could take a very long time.



In the slums of oil-rich Argentina millions are living hand-to-mouth. Martinez de Hoz (above), once seen as the country's saviour, is universally blamed.

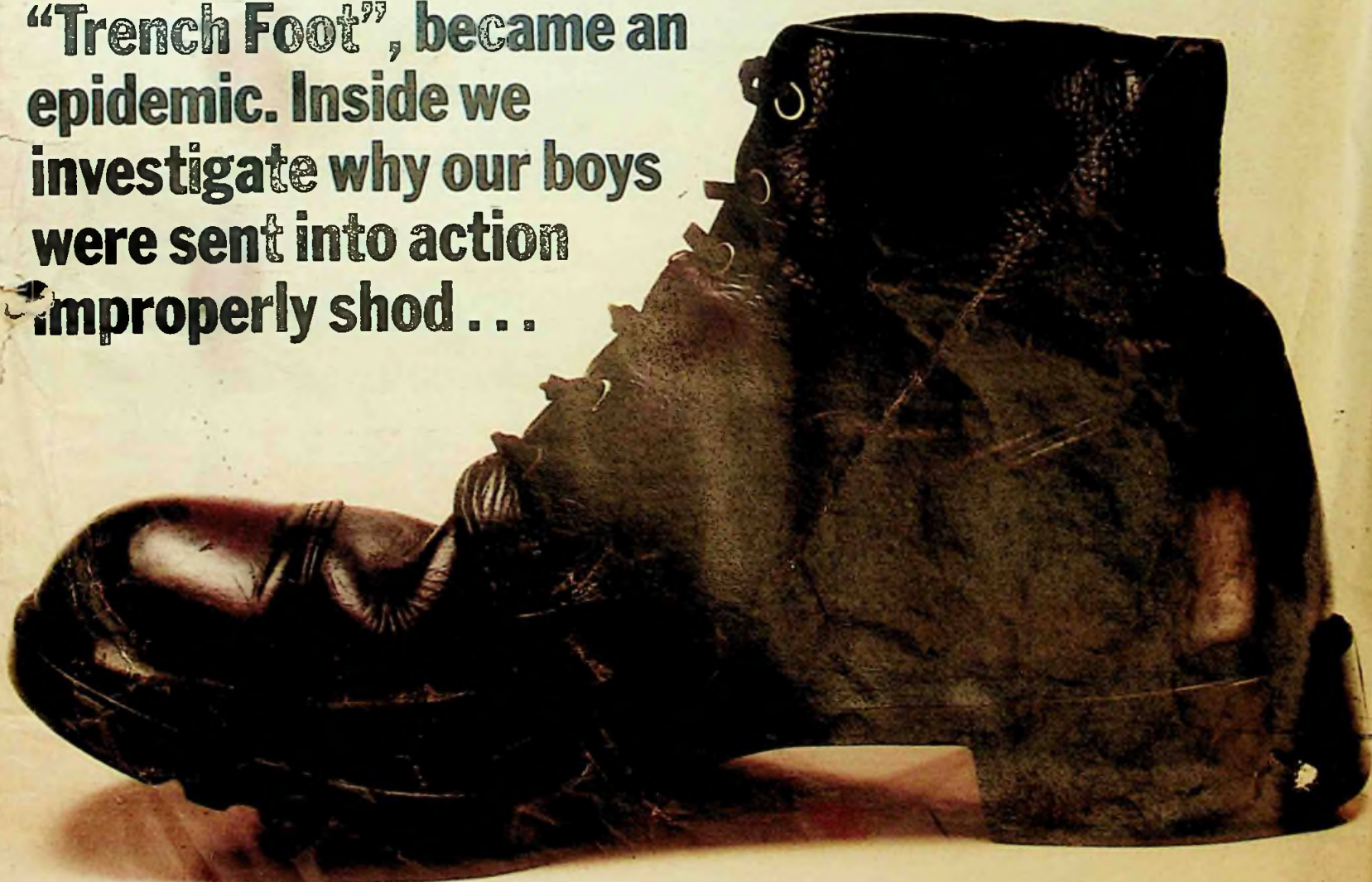
SUNDAY EXPRESS *magazine*

GOOD
GARDENING
A NEW SERIES

13 MARCH 1983

SCANDAL OF THE ARMY BOOT

This is the item of equipment that nearly lost us the war in the Falklands: the British Army boot. It is smart and well-made but has a fatal flaw. It lets water in and doesn't dry out. As a result, a First World War malady, "Trench Foot", became an epidemic. Inside we investigate why our boys were sent into action improperly shod...



Ronald Payne investigates how Trench Foot became an epidemic in the Falklands. The British troops were so poorly shod that some were reduced to robbing boots from Argentinian bodies

SCANDAL OF THE BRITISH ARMY BOOT

TRENCH FOOT is a nasty gangrenous affliction named in the First World War and caused by prolonged exposure of the feet to damp and cold. Its symptoms are an alternating mixture of numbness and tingling pain. Unlike frostbite, which in many ways resembles the condition, is reversible, but if the cause is not removed the pain gets steadily worse until it becomes so excruciating that sufferers can barely walk let alone fight.

A little-known fact about the Falklands campaign is that if the war had continued for just a short time longer, trench foot might have cost Britain her chance of victory.

By the time the final assaults were made, between 40 and 50 men had been taken permanently out of the war because of trench foot and sent back to the Red Cross ship *Uganda*. But according to medical sources that was just the tip of the iceberg. As many as half of all our combat troops were believed to be suffering to some degree from trench foot and the number requiring medical help was multiplying daily. The courage of the troops meant that many fought on uncomplainingly even in pain. Some hardened paras and commandos sent to the *Uganda* were said to be near to tears at the frustration of being invalided out of the war for this undignified reason.

Now as experts examine the lessons of the war, one of the things under scrutiny, along with electronic systems and sophisticated weaponry, is that humble item of equipment—the British army boot.

Or, to be precise, a re-evaluation is taking place of the "Boot, Ankle, Direct Moulded Sole. General Service."

Some disturbing facts have emerged from the reports of combatants. Most of our fighting men were, it turned out, even less well-shod than the accompanying journalists, most of whom were wearing ordinary weekend walking or climbing boots. Some of the troops were reduced to wearing plastic

bags over their boots or the plastic over-boots that come with their nuclear fall-out suits—hardly ideal equipment for infantry fighting.

The most shaming fact of all is that many of our troops finished the campaign wearing Argentinian boots—robbed from the feet of

Argentinian bodies. It was a matter of permanent irritation to the British men as they yomped or tabbed across the Falklands bogs to know their opponents had better boots than they. Not only were they made of better materials (the one thing

beef-producing Argentina isn't short of is leather) but they were better designed too. The Argentinian boots were calf-high and had a long sealed-in tongue of soft leather to guard against water seeping through the lace-holes. The sole, a thick but flexible sandwich of leather and rubber, was properly stitched and storm-welted, not moulded, to the uppers.

One Marine sergeant who returned home wearing the Argentinian boots photographed opposite said: "I didn't like taking the boots off a corpse. But he didn't need them any more and I could see that at least they would keep the water out and were about the right size."

To give our soldiers boots of equivalent quality to the Argentinians' would certainly cost much more than the £15 to £16 per pair that the Ministry of Defence apparently pays for bulk supplies of the mass-produced British boot. But the cheap method of manufacture—forced by successive defence cuts—was shown by the Falklands experience to have been a false economy.

The boot worn by most of our troops in the Falklands was different from the one remembered from wartime or national service—the old "ammunition boot". That was the military equivalent of the working man's boot, with a thick, stitched, leather sole, and metal plates on the toe and heel. Millions of servicemen in two world wars had marched on those boots through Europe, Africa, Arabia and Asia, battledress trousers secured to them by webbing gaiters. The gaiters had to be blanched and millions of man-hours were spent polishing the boots to a vitreous glaze. But at least the polish kept them more or less waterproof and the traditional leather construction allowed the feet to "breathe" and dry out between the puddles.

There were drawbacks even then. Many a British Tommy looked enviously at the American high-leg combat boots and even at Nazi jackboots, which appeared to keep out the weather better than gaiters, and were far less trouble. And the stout soles of the ammunition boot were so inflexible that even a weekend Rambler would turn his nose up at them.



Flashback to the mud of World War 1, (top,) where Trench Foot was endemic. Below: Foot inspection in the Falklands—a rare opportunity to take off boots



INTO BATTLE IN PLASTIC BAGS

The British Commandos on Mount Harriet (left) are being briefed for the final assault. After days of yomping, they've been reduced to lacing plastic around their boots in an attempt to stop more water creeping in. Some are wearing the plastic over-boots that belong to their "Noddy suits", intended for use against nuclear fall-out and chemical warfare. The standard-issue DMS ankle boot (above and front cover) lets in water through the lace openings and over the top. Even worse, its moulded sole and the low absorbency of its leather-board insole allow water and sweat no means of escape

MAX HASTINGS

ARGENTINIAN BOOT
3 inches higher than the British DMS ankle boot

BELLOWS TONGUE
attached all the way up to protect against seepage through opening and lace-holes

INSOLE of vegetable-tanned leather, more absorbent than leather-board

REVERSE STORM-WELT
stitched in to weather-proof the join

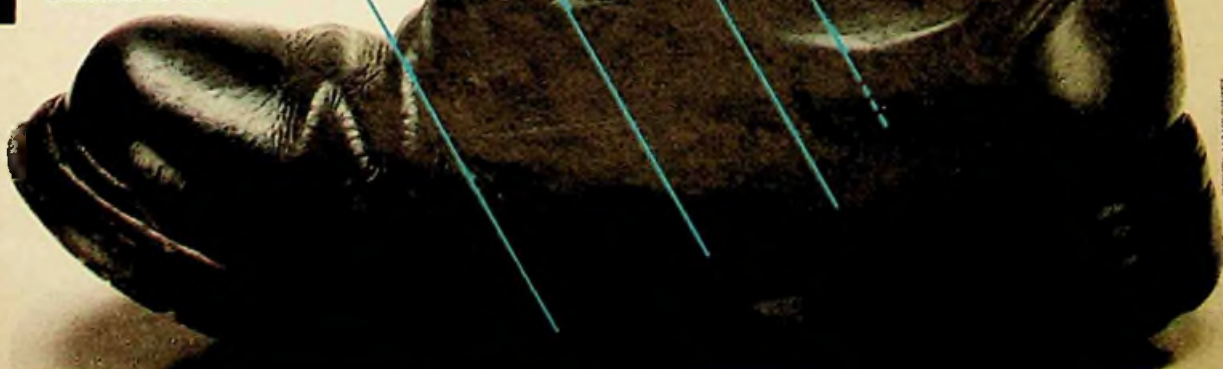
THROUGH MIDDLE SOLE
and runner of absorbent natural leather

THROUGH-SOLE of moulded vulcanised rubber, separately stitched to boot



AT LEAST THEIR FEET WERE DRY

Cheap labour and an abundance of leather meant that the Argentinian troops — like the prisoner-of-war above — were very well shod. British experts estimate that the Argentinian boot (shown in detail, right) would cost £50 a pair to make here, three times the cost of the British boot



GERARD MANKOWITZ

16 — With the coming of the professional army of the '60s it was felt that a new all-purpose boot was required. Only the Guards stuck to the old ammunition boots: their metal plates made them better for ceremonial drill. Many a battle-scarred old veteran regretted their passing. General Sir Jeremy Moore, who became our commander in the Falklands, said: "There was a lot to be said for the old ammunition boots even though you did have to stand with them in a bucket of water to coax them into shape."

The traditionalists got their way to the extent that the new all-purpose boot was only ankle-high — the Ministry of Defence did not want our peacetime army to develop a jackboots image. But partly for flexibility, and partly, one suspects, to cut down cost, the new boot was not stitched, but had a solid rubber sole, heat moulded to the uppers — the direct moulded or DMS in military shorthand. The gaiter went out of service to be replaced with puttees, strips of tightly-bound khaki material beloved of the old British Indian Army, wound round the top of the boots. Jolly useful stuff as emergency bandages, according to military conservatives.

The DMS was the notorious boot in which the troops slogged through the wet peat of the Falklands with gunge slipping in at ankle level and water penetrating the lace-holes. The troops cheerfully described them as LPCs — Leather Personnel Carriers — in fond memory of the APCs, the armoured personnel carriers, which were conspicuous by their absence for the first time in modern warfare.

Even in the first days ashore at San Carlos Bay, the DMS boot was found wanting. As Marines and Paras waded ashore from their landing craft, their socks soaked up the salt water. Even when the soldiers managed to take off their boots, it was an impossible task to dry out the socks properly because the salt seemed to retain the moisture. And once the boots were wet inside, the impervious rubber soles meant that they wouldn't dry out either — unlike old-fashioned leather they wouldn't "breathe".

The first cases of trench foot — a malady which sounds like a bad joke left over from faraway Flanders in 1916 — occurred within a day or two of the landing.

The men of 2 Para who fought at Goose Green were constantly in action for between 48 and 72 hours at a stretch with no chance of taking off their soaked boots so as to dry out socks and feet. As a result no fewer than 30 of them went down with trench foot. Fortunately after their hard-won victory they were able to take things easy for a while, and by the time they went into action on Wireless Hill all except two of the original casualties had recovered.

Doctors encouraged them to dry out their feet wherever possible and they used hot air blowers from field hospitals to restore circulation. Both Paras and Marines evolved a rota system so that even in outposts men could take turns in removing one boot at a time in sequence to dry out without losing operational strength. In a surprise attack one boot was better than none at all.

But an epidemic of further cases began to occur as other troops yomped and tabbed across the north of the island to the heights above Stanley ready for the final assault. This was a serious worry for General Moore who had few enough troops at his disposal, especially when many others were suffering from dysentery through melting dirty snow for use with their dry ration packs. The two articles upon which the army traditionally marches, its boots and its stomach, had both gone wrong. Those who had to be helicoptered to Uganda, were permanently lost to the campaign because according to the rules of the Geneva Convention they were in Red Cross territory and forbidden to return.

The proof of the failure of the DMS ankle boots is that some units lucky enough to have higher boots of different design fared much better. For instance, 45 Commando Royal Marines suffered less because many of them were wearing a higher, more waterproof issue boot called the Cairngorm, or the Greenlander. They had served with Nato forces in Norway and their boots were designed to be worn with spats to keep out snow.

Paratroops had a consignment of brand-new Cairngorms with them when they went ashore. But it was decided not to use them because there had been no time to fit them and wear them in.

The SAS and their Royal Marine equivalents in the SBS make a bit of a fetish of special equipment. They have devised their own belts and webbing with many, no doubt useful, attachments which make them look like walking Swiss army knives. Not surprisingly, they also had some pretty fancy boots designed in Sweden, waterproof, insulated, and made of thicker leather. As a result they were untroubled by trench foot.

As always in the British Army, there were individualists who thought in advance and looked after their own needs. A Paratroop officer reported that he had marched in comfort wearing a second-hand pair of German army lace-up boots bought at a war surplus shop in Aldershot for £12.

"The question of boots is a long-running saga," said Major-General Robert Wall, former chief of staff, Royal Marines. "There were always endless internal arguments about what sort of sole and how waterproof they should be. The final product has to be suitable for all sorts of climatic conditions".

It is not easy to resolve — 21

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It costs less than it should

19 the argument about water-proof boots. The more impervious to water a boot is made, either with chemicals or the insertion of plastic materials, the more the foot sweats and the more difficult it is for damp to dry out. There are still plenty of soldiers to speak up for the jungle boot with high canvas uppers which was worn in Malaysia. It lets water in but it dries out fast.

The Falklands campaign was by no means the first experience of the British army with boot trouble. The boots worn by the army of Sir John Moore in 1809 literally fell to pieces as they retreated across the wintry mountains of northern Spain pursued by Napoleon's armies. In those days soldiers had to buy their own boots from contractors at six shillings and sixpence a pair. The bootmakers made no distinction between left foot and right foot boots, and to make them wear evenly soldiers wore them on alternate feet each day.

When Brunel, the great 19th-century engineer, saw the defeated army from Corunna disembarking at Portsmouth he was so horrified with the state of the soldiers' feet bandaged in rags that he made an immediate study, patented a new boot and became supplier of it to the British army.

Nowadays endless committees of senior officers try to reach a consensus on footwear requirements. The project is then handed over to the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment run by the Ministry of Defence at Colchester. It is staffed partly by civilians and partly by soldiers. Conscious that once a new boot is approved orders will go out for up to 200,000 pairs a year, they move with great circumspection.

The irony is that after seven years of research a new and more suitable boot, known in army-speak as "Boot, Combat, High Leg, DMS" had been developed and was ready to go into service before the Falklands campaign began. In fact, by January 1982 the Army had already taken delivery of 126,000 pairs, but had not got round to issuing them to the troops. Only now, after the fighting has finished are they being tried out by garrison units in the Falklands.

The official specification for the new model describes it as "a high-leg boot of a Derby no-cap design with full bellows tongue and direct moulded sole construction. The upper leather has a high degree of water resistance and details of manufacture impart water resistance properties to the finished boot".

At first glance the combat high boots with their moulded rubber soles look as if they could be even sweeter than the DMS ankle boot, but they will certainly be less likely to let water in. They are about the same height in the leg as the Argentinian boot and the "bellows tongue" is fixed all the way up the

THE BOOT THAT CAME TOO LATE

Our new high-leg combat boot (below) which had been manufactured before the Falklands campaign but not issued. Waterproofing is improved, but direct-moulded sole, cheap leather-board insole and scant lining make it insufficiently sweat-absorbent, say some experts



The time-honoured ammunition boot. It had a stout leather sole, riveted, screwed and stitched, reinforced with metal plates and cutlans, and an absorbent leather insole. Many soldiers regretted its passing



FULL BELLOWS TONGUE and high leg cuts the risk of water spilling in

DIRECT MOULDED SOLE orthodox construction from two densities of rubber, virtually identical to (e.g.) civilian "Tuf" boots

'WELT' described in MOD specification as "mock storm welt" - in fact just a bead of vulcanised rubber

LINING vegetable-tanned leather vamp lining, the only moisture-absorbent feature of the boot. Experts would prefer a full leather counter-lining

INSOLE made from leather-board - less absorbent than vegetable-tanned leather

opening to guard against seepage through the lace-holes.

One of the main manufacturers of the high leg and previous army boots is G. B. Britton Ltd of Kingswood, Bristol, which also makes industrial footwear. No blame attaches to the manufacturer for design shortcomings in boots—the design is specified by the Ministry of Defence. The managing director, David Smith, describes what is involved in getting a contract.

Companies are asked to make a few prototype pairs, then a batch of perhaps 200 pairs for trial on troops.

Eventually, after trials and comments, the SCRDE issues a specification and invites various footwear manufacturers to submit tenders. The specification for the new combat high boot runs to nine pages and goes into great detail about materials and production.

A typical technical passage reads: "Upper Leather. (1) Outsoles,

excluding tongues, are to be full grain or lightly corrected black side leather, water resistant, complying with DEF STAN 83-2/2 for footwear with hot moulded-on soles. The leather may be given a light hair-cellprint."

The manufacturer has to calculate his production costs carefully—for example Britton's had to make a capital investment in moulds and lasts of £100,000 in order to make combat high boots. They also know that the MoD allocates orders strictly on quoted prices so that competition is keen.

For combat high boots Britton Ltd got an initial order for 28,000 pairs to be produced in 11 different sizes each with three separate fittings—broad, medium and narrow. The sizes, worked out on a special military scale, go up to one big enough for a recruit with size 13 feet. The boots were delivered

before the end of January 1982, as were orders from other companies.

When the Falklands war started, the Ministry placed a quick order for a further 29,000 pairs. But by the time the new-style boots had filtered through the system to the Falklands the fighting had ended.

All of which is scant comfort to our troops who suffered unnecessary pain in the Falklands. But at least the military doctors now know a good deal more than they did about trench foot. Last month its prevention was an important theme at a two-day conference of the Royal Society of Medicine on the lessons of the Falklands campaign. A first, if minor, measure has been taken by increasing the wool content in the army sock.

Meanwhile the debate will certainly go on about the ideal army boot. Last thought to General Sir Jeremy Moore: "You'll never get the perfect boot until you can breed the perfect cow." ●

READER DIGEST FEB '83
Special Feature

SOUTH ATLANTIC VICTORY

BY DAVID MOLLER



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When Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands last year, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shridath Ramphal, observed: "Aggression in any part of the world is a crime against the whole world." He praised Britain's martial response to the invasion as "a service to the world community."

For Britain herself, the Falklands campaign meant important—even surprising—rediscovery of the true strength of the country's resolve when freedom is in peril. Within days of the Argentine attack, one of the largest naval Task Forces since the Second World War was sent 8,000 miles—arguably the longest supply line in military history.

For Britain's fighting men, often outnumbered, the conflict became a supreme test of weaponry and heroic courage. And for servicemen's families at home, the Falklands will be remembered ever more as a long anxiety of waiting and hoping.

David Moller, a Reader's Digest Roving Editor, has interviewed not only scores of servicemen and their families, but also Falklanders. These vignettes form a unique, intensely human insight into the hard-won campaign which stirred the hearts of the nation.



LEITH, South Georgia, was an unlikely setting for an international incident. Many people had never even heard of it. South Georgia—a British dependency administered by the Falkland Islands, 800 miles to the north-west—is about 100 miles long, 20 miles wide, and consists of a jagged mountain range rising 10,000 feet from the stormy South Atlantic.

Leith has been virtually deserted since its whaling station was abandoned in 1964. It is a rat-infested cluster of corrugated-iron and wooden buildings huddled on the island's northern shore. Winds howl in constantly from Antarctica.

On March 18, 1982, the 3,100-ton *Bahia Buen Suceso*, an Argentine Navy supply ship, sailed into this forlorn scene. Some 40 commandos disembarked with 40 scruffy-looking Argentinian scrap-metal merchants who had come to salvage the whaling station's equipment.

They ran the blue and white Argentinian flag up a pole, sang their national anthem ("Let us live crowned by glory/Or swear with glory to die") and went off to shoot the local reindeer.

Next day Trefor Edwards, a tall, bearded, 35-year-old Briton, arrived with three other members of the British Antarctic Survey for a routine check on stores kept at Leith for the Survey's visiting scientists. Declining a meal of venison stew, Edwards told the Argentines' commander that he and his party had landed illegally

without immigration formalities. Moreover, the reindeer on which the Argentines had dined were a protected species.

"Finally," said Edwards, "that flag must come down."

The Britons then left, to return to the Survey's base at Grytviken, 20 miles eastward along the coast.

The *Bahia Buen Suceso* sailed four days later but 12 of the scrap merchants stayed behind. In Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, the British Ambassador delivered a strong note of protest to the Foreign Ministry about the presence of illegal immigrants on British sovereign territory.

Leith, South Georgia, was now firmly on the map.

FOR decades the international complexities of Falklands history have brought looks of weary anguish to Foreign Office faces. In 1690 an English sea captain, John Strong of Plymouth, became the first recorded man to land on these treeless, windswept islands. He named the strip of water separating East and West Falkland, the two main islands, "Falkland Sound" in honour of Viscount Falkland, the naval Treasurer. The French and British established garrisons, the British withdrawing in 1774 after a clash with Spaniards who had bought a French settlement. By this time the British were calling the whole starburst of some 200 islands the Falklands; the French settlers knew them as *Les Isles Malouines* (the original name

of their home port, St Malo), which later became *Las Islas Malvinas* to the Spanish.

In 1828 the newly independent ex-Spanish Government in Buenos Aires established a settlement which the American warship *Lexington* destroyed because the inhabitants attacked US seal hunters. Then five years later the British occupied East and West Falkland—total area: 4,700 square miles—and have ruled the Falklands as a British colony ever since, continually refuting Argentina's claim to ownership. On three occasions since 1947 Britain has urged the Argentines to test their claim to the Falklands in the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Each time, the Argentine Government rejected the idea.

As recently as last February, Foreign Office Minister of State Richard Luce was discussing the Falklands' future with Argentina's Deputy Foreign Minister, Enrique Ros, in New York. Luce, like all his predecessors in previous talks, insisted that any constitutional change must depend on the Falklanders' wishes—but he didn't dismiss out of hand the Argentinian suggestion of a "negotiating commission" to discuss sovereignty.

Enrique Ros's eyes shone with anticipation. Maybe this was a breakthrough at last. But his government in Buenos Aires were impatient for immediate action. When the British Ambassador delivered his note protesting at the scrap merchants'

illegal presence on South Georgia, he was informed bluntly that the men were on Argentine territory.

BUENOS AIRES: March 30. It was Argentina's worst riot in six years of military dictatorship. Despite nearly 2,000 arrests, and mounted police forcing their way into the crowd lashing out with short leather whips, thousands more protesters poured on to the streets. Stung by an annual inflation rate of some 130 per cent, with 13 per cent of the workforce unemployed, they chanted: "Argentina . . . Freedom . . . The military dictatorship is coming to an end."

Pacing his ornate study in the presidential palace, the Casa Rosada, General Leopoldo Galtieri did not seem unduly concerned. An imposing man of six foot two, with a mane of white hair and piercing blue eyes, he had been president for only four months, contriving to be leader of the three-man ruling junta yet remain army Commander-in-Chief.

Galtieri judged that Argentina's basic problem was morale: a lack of national self-confidence. As he frequently reminded colleagues: "We want a great country." But how to achieve that greatness? What master-stroke would set Argentine hearts afire with patriotism?

Unknown to the mob outside the palace, moves were already afoot to right the tale of alleged territorial injustice which was drummed into every Argentine schoolchild. Commandos were mustering secretly at

military airfields. The Argentine fleet was at sea—ostensibly for joint exercises with the Uruguayan Navy.

That night, President Galtieri exulted to his cabinet: "Gentlemen, in a matter of days the Malvinas will be ours."

More Uninvited Guests

JUST after 4am on April 2, the quiet of the Falklands night was broken by the steady *clop-clop-clop* of helicopter rotor blades as 120 Argentine commandos, clad in dark green combat denims, were deposited at Mullet Creek, two miles south of the Falklands' capital, Stanley. Then five Argentine warships sent the first of 2,000 troops ashore in Port Stanley. To oppose them, there were just 66 Royal Marines and 12 sailors who had remained on the island when the naval ice patrol ship *Endurance* sailed for South Georgia.

By 6am Government House was almost surrounded. From the house and the meagre protection of rocks and trees in its garden some 40 of the marines, commanded by 38-year-old Major Mike Norman, tried to hold back the enemy. As Argentine automatic fire shattered the windows of the wood and brick building, everyone inside was obliged to crawl round on hands and knees. The stocky, 55-year-old Governor, Rex Hunt, an ex-Spitfire pilot, sat under his desk, calmly telephoning to the radio station a running commentary on the battle. It was simultaneously broadcast to the 1,800 islanders.

Between the bursts of gunfire outside, voices called out in Spanish-accented English: "Mr Hunt, come out and surrender." A British marine yelled back, "Mr Hunt does not surrender."

As a line of armoured personnel carriers approached Stanley, another section of marines opened fire with anti-tank missiles.

The leading carrier spewed out black smoke. No one came out of it. Meanwhile, the attack on Government House grew steadily fiercer. Major Norman, joining the Governor under his desk, reported, "With the guns they've got they could reduce this building to rubble. But we're quite prepared to fight if that's what you want."

After considering the situation, Hunt telephoned an Argentine national he knew: the local representative of the Argentine airline, LADE. "It's time we called a truce," said Hunt. "Tell the Argentine commander I want to talk." At 9.35am he ordered the Royal Marines to lay down their arms.

On meeting General Manuel Garcia, the Falklands' new military governor, Hunt ignored the Argentine's outstretched hand. The general spluttered that Hunt was being ungentlemanly. Hunt retorted: "It is uncivilized of you to invade my country. I order you and all your troops to leave."

It was Hunt who had to leave that same day. But before being driven to Stanley airport with his wife Mavis

and 17-year-old son Tony, to board an Argentine plane for neutral Uruguay as the start of their return to Britain. Hunt displayed one last act of defiance. He put on full ceremonial uniform, complete with sword, white plumed hat and the Cross of St Michael and St George.

Major Norman and the captured Royal Marines immediately followed him to Uruguay in a Hercules transport plane. They had fired 6,462 rounds, killing an estimated five Argentinians and wounding 17 at a cost of no casualties to themselves.

The Marines cherished one memory from an otherwise grim day. When the Argentine invaders were raising their flag outside Government House, a sudden gust of wind had snapped the rope and hurled the flag to the ground.

"Rule Britannia"

WHILE diplomats in London, Buenos Aires and New York sought a peaceful solution to the invasion, Britain dispatched a Task Force to retake the Falklands by military means if necessary. At 10am on April 5, tugs at Portsmouth nudged the 19,500-ton carrier *Invincible* from her moorings. Then the 28,700-ton aircraft carrier *Hermes*, flagship of Rear-Admiral John "Sandy" Woodward, the Task Force commander, was slipping past cheering crowds at Portsmouth Point, Southsea sea front and at the fortifications in Old Portsmouth—vantage points from which for centuries Britons have

waved fleets off to war. In the pale spring sunshine the crowds sang *Rule Britannia* and waved Union Jacks. More subdued were those who had hugged husbands, fathers, sons goodbye. Blue-overalled dockyard workers hoisted a banner: "Come back safely."

Only two hours out at sea, the *Invincible's* helicopter pilots began honing their skills of taking off and landing on a moving deck. Vertical take-off Harriers made simulated combat runs.

On April 7, after one of the fastest, most complex troop and cargo-loading operations in British naval history, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Stromness* sailed from Portsmouth with 429 Royal Marines on board and 2,750 tons of stores, including food, ammunition and a portable airstrip. She was followed two days later by the requisitioned 45,000-ton cruise liner *Canberra*, which had been hastily divested of luxuries like chandeliers and palm trees. Hardboard sheets protected the ship's carpeting from the heavy boots of 2,000 "Paras" and Royal Marines.

As the vessels steamed on their three-week journey south, refuelling and revictualling half-way at Ascension Island, 4,000 miles from the Falklands, the Task Force swelled to a motley fleet of 100: not only warships and troop transports but also requisitioned oil tankers, container ships, roll-on roll-off ferries, trawlers and even tugs. From Gibraltar came nine Royal Navy frigates and destroyers

that had been on a firing exercise in the Mediterranean. The 4,100-ton destroyer *Sheffield*, for example, had been due back in Portsmouth on April 6. Chief Petty Officer John Strange, a quiet, 38-year-old specialist mechanic, longed to see his wife Hannah and daughters Charleen, 10, and Pauline, 6. But like others on *Sheffield*, Strange shrugged philosophically. Maybe, after 18 years in the Navy, he would at last be doing the job he was trained and paid for.

Defence Secretary John Nott announced in the House of Commons the setting up of a 200-mile exclusion zone around the Falklands. From midnight on April 12, any Argentine naval ship found within that area would be liable to attack. Yet troops exercising on sun-drenched decks as the Task Force steamed into the tropics found it hard to believe that even this latest move meant war. Journalists who sailed on board *Canberra* had run a sweepstake on the likeliest date that the Falklands crisis would blow over and the Task Force be recalled home. The most pessimistic bet: May 25.

Lightning Landing

JUST after midnight on April 23 the Royal Navy destroyer *Antrim* and the frigate *Plymouth* crept close to South Georgia's northern shore. Near by waited the fleet auxiliary *Tidespring* with 100 marines on board.

The previous day, swirling snow whipped by 100 mph winds had enforced the helicopter rescue of 16

Special Air Service men, landed on the island to help plan the attack on Argentine-occupied Grytviken. Now a fresh reconnaissance team of 16 SAS were to be put ashore from *Antrim*—and once more the recapture of South Georgia suffered a set-back. When the five SAS rubber dinghies had been lowered into the black, heaving water, two of the outboard engines refused to start. One three-man SAS team was rescued from the open sea by helicopter the following morning. The team in the other stricken dinghy scrambled ashore and lay low until three days later.

Far more disturbing was an Intelligence report that an Argentine submarine might be in the area. *Antrim*, *Plymouth* and the unarmed *Tidespring* at once withdrew to sea. Some hours later, as the ships moved in again towards South Georgia, their radar-equipped helicopters began to scour the waters.

Finally at 9am on April 25, a Wessex 3 spotted the submarine *Sante Fe* six miles off Grytviken and immediately attacked with two depth charges. Trailing oil from her conning tower, and pursued by a swarm of helicopters firing rockets, the submarine limped to Grytviken harbour, where she had earlier landed 40 Argentine commandos. Now her crew of 74 streamed ashore.

At this point the Royal Marine commander, 39-year-old Major Guy Sheridan, had a daring inspiration. Why not attack the Argentines while they were still demoralized? The plan

had but one—massive—disadvantage. *Tidespring* with her 100 marines was by now 200 miles out to sea.

There were, however, 19 SAS on *Antrim*, plus the ship's usual complement of ten marines. Jotting figures on a pad, Sheridan added his own headquarters group, a sprinkling of other commandos and two naval gun support parties. In all, he could land 75 men. The Argentines were thought to number about 140.

"It was a gamble, but a risk worth taking," concluded Sheridan.

While helicopters ferried the scratch assault force to a coastal plateau three miles from Grytviken, *Antrim* and *Plymouth* moved closer inshore for a display of gunfire. With the war still partly "political"—Argentina was reiterating at the

United Nations in New York her claim to the Falklands—the shells were deliberately kept 800 yards from the Argentine positions. But, exploding against the cavernous backdrop of mountains, they produced a thunderous, echoing roar.

Argentine binoculars were raised to view the British troops, bristling with rifles, machine-guns, mortars, anti-tank missiles and grenades, advancing down the hill towards them. Three large white flags appeared before a shot was fired. As the SAS sped to hoist the Union Jack, an Argentine officer complained: "You have just run through a minefield."

From the ship's radio room that night, *Antrim's* captain dispatched a message via satellite to the Ministry of Defence in London: "Be pleased to

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inform Her Majesty that the White Ensign flies alongside the Union Jack at Grytviken, South Georgia."

In his personal diary Sheridan noted: "A nice day."

Falkland Pimpernel

APRIL 30. Terry Peck, a dark-haired Falklander aged 44, awoke on the bare slopes of Long Island Mountain, on the north-east coast of East Falkland, and had to crack ice to open the zip on his sleeping-bag. The islands' former police chief was now a fugitive from the enemy.

In Stanley, where some islanders used to think that Argentine rule might be acceptable, he had seen what Argentine occupation really meant. Families were summarily evicted from their homes to make way for Argentine officers. Armoured personnel carriers simply drove through fences and across gardens.

Peck photographed enemy radar, missile and artillery sites, and smuggled out the film, plus a sketch-map of the capital showing houses occupied by the military, with an Irish teacher leaving the islands. When the Argentines started digging up the police-station garden, where Peck had buried confidential documents, he decided it was time to "thin out into the hills."

Borrowing a 100 cc motorcycle and living on food from friends in isolated farmhouses, he pattered along the peat track west towards Darwin and Goose Green. In thick fog he realigned the runway markings on the

grass airfield at Green Patch, in the hope that at least one Argentine plane would plough into a bog. Then, roaming the hills near Port Louis and Berkeley Sound, he noted Argentine artillery sites, observation points, troop strengths and helicopter movements.

Awaking on Long Island Mountain, he listened carefully to the early morning sounds. The sudden honking of wild geese, or the running of sheep, could often signal the approach of Argentine patrols. But in the damp, grey mist, all was quiet. Peck, by now a begrimed, bedraggled figure, rolled up his sleeping-bag and kept heading west.

"Defend the Fleet"

MAY 2. The 13,600-ton Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano*, with 15 six-inch guns, eight five-inch guns and surface-to-air missiles, was probably the most heavily armed ship in the South Atlantic. For some time she had been weaving in and out of the British 200-mile exclusion zone. Stalking the cruiser was another formidable craft: the Royal Navy hunter-killer submarine *Conqueror*. Nuclear-powered, she has a speed of 30 knots, and modern sonar devices that can identify vessels many miles away.

Conqueror's captain, bearded 37-year-old Commander Chris Wreford-Brown, faced an agonizing problem. Although *Belgrano* was currently just outside the zone, she could suddenly lunge at the carriers *Hermes* and



Invincible—entailing the loss of up to 2,000 men and the virtual end of the campaign to recapture the Falklands. Should *Conqueror* attack?

Wreford-Brown posed this question in a coded radio signal to the Fleet Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, at British Fleet headquarters in Northwood, north-west of London. Sir John promptly showed it to the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, who sped by car to Chequers, where Mrs Thatcher was having pre-lunch drinks in the Great Hall with her War Cabinet: Defence Secretary John Nott, Home Secretary William Whitelaw, Foreign Secretary Francis Pym and the Tory Party Chairman, Cecil Parkinson.

Sir Terence pointed out that not only had Argentina been told of the exclusion zone, she had been warned that Britain would "take whatever additional measures may be needed to exercise its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter." The War Cabinet was unanimous: British warships must defend the fleet.

The decision was radioed to *Conqueror*. Wreford-Brown ordered his torpedo officer to load three tubes. With *Conqueror* closing to within 1,200 yards of *Belgrano*, Wreford-Brown shouted, "Fire One... Fire Two... Fire Three!" As two of the torpedoes struck their target, *Belgrano* shuddered in the water. After seven minutes she was listing 15 degrees; 50 minutes later she

sank. Her two escorting destroyers had vanished; 368 Argentines died.

There was little jubilation on board British vessels that night. As one young naval officer put it, "We are all sailors. We can imagine what it must be like to drown."

For the rest of the campaign, all 13 warships of the Argentine Navy stayed within their territorial waters.

Swift Revenge

MAY 4. The British destroyer *Sheffield* was on defensive "picket duty," 20 miles ahead of the Task Force. At 1.10pm Sub-Lieutenant Al Clark was standing on the bridge when he saw the orange glow of a rocket motor coming over the horizon at nearly the speed of sound. He only had time to yell "Take cover!" then hurl himself to the deck.

There was a massive explosion as the 15-foot Exocet missile, launched from an Argentine aircraft, sliced through the thick steel plate amidships a few feet above the water line. The blast wrecked the operations room, damaged control headquarters and the machinery control room. Instantly, *Sheffield* was robbed of electrical power, communications and pressure in all fire hoses. The PVC-coated electrical cables burst into flames sending out dense black smoke.

When Chief Petty Officer John Strange regained consciousness in a machinery room below the explosion, he saw burnt skin hanging from the

backs of his hands. His face, arms, legs and back had been peppered with metal fragments. But he could still walk.

Strange stumbled through a wall of flame to climb a metal ladder. At the top he lifted a 50-pound hatch and reached a smoke-filled passageway. Shipmates led him first to a cabin near the fore'sle; then with smoke drifting forward, they eventually hauled him up through another hatch on to the deck. The mild sea air struck him with a blast. Having lost a massive amount of blood, he began shaking uncontrollably.

A medical assistant injected his leg with morphine. Then a Sea King helicopter appeared overhead. Strange was first taken to the near-by frigate *Arrow*, and put on a saline drip. Another helicopter took him to the aircraft carrier *Hermes*, where surgeons in the operating theatre examined his injuries. They rated his chances of survival as fifty-fifty.

On *Sheffield* the survivors were still fire-fighting. An emergency pump had been brought by helicopter from another vessel, but after four and a half hours the superstructure was steaming; paint peeled off the *Sheffield*'s sides. At 5.50pm Captain Sam Salt ordered: "Abandon ship."

Of the 268 crew, 20 had died and 24 were injured. *Sheffield* was the first British warship lost in battle since the Second World War.

The survivors went on board *Arrow* and listened to that evening's BBC World Service report of the disaster.

They knew that for their families, the anguish of uncertainty was just beginning.

MAY 4. 9.17pm. The telephone rang in Diane Mundell's terrace house in Portsmouth. It was her best friend, Irene Milner. "If you've got the television on, switch it off. Don't ask me why, I'll be with you in three minutes."

Diane, whose husband Edward was a Chief Petty Officer on *Sheffield*, had been in the kitchen making a cup of coffee. Instinctively she guessed that she didn't need to ask questions. Almost in a trance, she switched off the television as instructed. Then the doorbell rang. Tony Leggett, another family friend, arrived. Too distraught to speak, he simply threw his arms round Diane.

"*Sheffield*'s been hit, hasn't it?" she asked. Tony nodded.

Without prompting, Portsmouth swung into its least rehearsed and best organized operation: bringing comfort to families of those at sea. Irene Milner and her husband Michael, also in the Royal Navy, now came to visit Diane. And the telephone rang. Diane heard Irene assure the caller that everything was all right; everything under control. She wondered at how calm she still felt.

"How about the boys?" asked Michael. Seventeen-year-old Marshall, at a club in Southsea, would be home soon. Michael Milner tried to get news of the disaster to the Mundells' other son Robin, who was at

boarding-school in Sussex. Finding he had only a daytime telephone number, he rang the police and asked them to relay the message. Then he drove to fetch Diane's sister Pauline from Hythe, 31 miles away.

Two more friends came. By midnight, the minutes were beginning to crawl. Calls to the emergency naval information centre in Portsmouth had revealed nothing. Just before 1am Diane decided to listen to the local radio station, Radio Victory. The announcer gave a news flash: "It is now believed there are some 30 missing from HMS *Sheffield*."

Diane felt she knew for certain her husband was one of those casualties. She explained: "As a mechanical engineer he was bound to have been in one of the engine rooms when the missile struck." In a sudden surge of fury, her tension welled up. Why hadn't *Sheffield* come home as planned on April 6? Why fight over a pile of rocks in the middle of nowhere? Why hadn't the Government solved the crisis by negotiation?

The others said nothing.

At 3.30am the phone rang. "Mrs Mundell? This is naval information. I'm very glad to tell you your husband Edward is safe and well."

"How are you feeling, Chief?" asked the doctor.

With an effort, Chief Petty Officer John Strange, in the sick bay on *Hermes*, opened his eyes. "You gave us a bad turn earlier in the week," the doctor continued. Strange's body had

started rejecting a blood transfusion. He had the rare blood group B Negative, and even with 2,000 on board *Hermes*, there were few potential blood donors. "We had one or two people looking rather white," the doctor joked. Strange smiled thinly.

"Have you any problems, Chief?" Strange hesitated—then asked if his drugs dosage was too high. At times, everywhere he looked, at the light switches, lockers or water jugs—all turned into faces, usually of shipmates who had died on *Sheffield*.

After a few days the hallucinations went, but it was another week before Strange came off the critical list.

The Big Gamble

MAY 13. The main British Task Force, including the troop-carrying liner *Canberra*, was now some 900 miles from the Falklands. Diplomats at the United Nations in New York studied yet another proposal for solving the crisis peacefully, but it proved as abortive as all previous attempts.

Brigadier Julian Thompson of the Royal Marines summoned 60 senior officers to come to a top-secret briefing on board his assault ship *Fearless*. He announced that the British would go ashore on the beaches round San Carlos Water, at the northern end of Falkland Sound.

Thompson, a chunky 47-year-old with the tough, angular features of a former keen boxer and rugby player, set out the situation. There would be 3,000 troops in the first landing, compared with the estimated 10,000

Argentines on the Falklands—a reverse of the three-to-one superiority which military strategists specify for a successful amphibious operation. Of far more concern was the Argentine air force: 223 aircraft, as against some 40 British Harrier jump-jets.

"Gentlemen," concluded Brigadier Thompson, "although we are outnumbered, we hold one massive advantage in the quality of our men—and that advantage will eventually enable us to win. God speed and good luck."

MAY 14. Bold, swift and resourceful—it was a typical SAS operation. A raiding party of 48 flew from *Hermes* in three Sea King helicopters. They landed on boggy, stony hills near the Argentine-held airfield on Pebble Island, off West Falkland.

A British destroyer a mile off shore fired a diversionary bombardment. While the night sky crackled with salvo after salvo, the SAS crept in on the airfield. As they withdrew, attacked by the 120-strong Argentine garrison, and the Sea Kings picked them up, there was a series of explosions. The SAS had destroyed six Pucara ground-attack planes, five other aircraft and a ton of ammunition. They sustained only two minor injuries.

Ashore

MAY 21. The early hours of the morning were cold and starlit; San Carlos Water a flat calm. *Norland*, a North Sea ferry—one of the armada

of British naval and merchant ships that had sailed into Falkland Sound—lay at station a mile off the mouth of San Carlos Water. Royal Marine Colour Sergeant Barrie Davies, a wiry six-footer from Barnsley, Yorkshire, eased his 90-ton landing craft *Tango One* alongside *Norland* to take on board 42-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Jones, commander of 2 Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, and 150 of his men.

At 6am Davies led a single-file procession of 12 landing craft to the beaches. As the bows of *Tango One* crunched on the shingle he yelled from the wheelhouse: "Down ramp! Out troops!" 2 Para were the first of the main British invasion force to set foot on the Falklands.

Davies braced himself for the surrounding hills to start spitting flame. He could hear two dogs barking in a near-by settlement—but nothing else. No Argentines. *Tango One* juddered back off the beach to fetch more troops.

By 10am 3,000 Paras and Marines had landed. Delighted Falklanders greeted them with mutton broth and mugs of tea. Youngsters helped the soldiers dig trenches and foxholes; farmers lent tractors to haul supplies from the beach. "It's lovely to see the lads," beamed Mrs Mandy McLeod.

The absence of Argentines seemed too good to be true. And it was. At noon appeared the first of the day's 72 jets from the Argentine mainland, 400 miles away. Horrified, Davies watched a Mirage scream in at 30

READER'S DIGEST

feet. Its 500-pound bomb hit the surface of the water and bounced in a lazy arc 50 feet over *Tango One*, to bucket into the sea. By mid-afternoon San Carlos Water had been renamed "Bomb Alley."

Day and night, despite the frequent raids and constant near-misses, *Tango One* and the other landing craft ferried ashore ammunition, food, fuel, guns, tanks and workshops from the ships that had now moved into San Carlos Water. From

he felt a hand shaking him and heard a voice ask: "Are you still with us?" He had gone to sleep on his feet.

TERRY PECK, the Islands' ex-police chief turned resistance man, was among the Falklanders who greeted the British forces. Having come from Stanley (50 miles from San Carlos Water) and seen many of the Argentine defences the troops would meet in their advance on the Falklands capital, he was a goldmine of vital

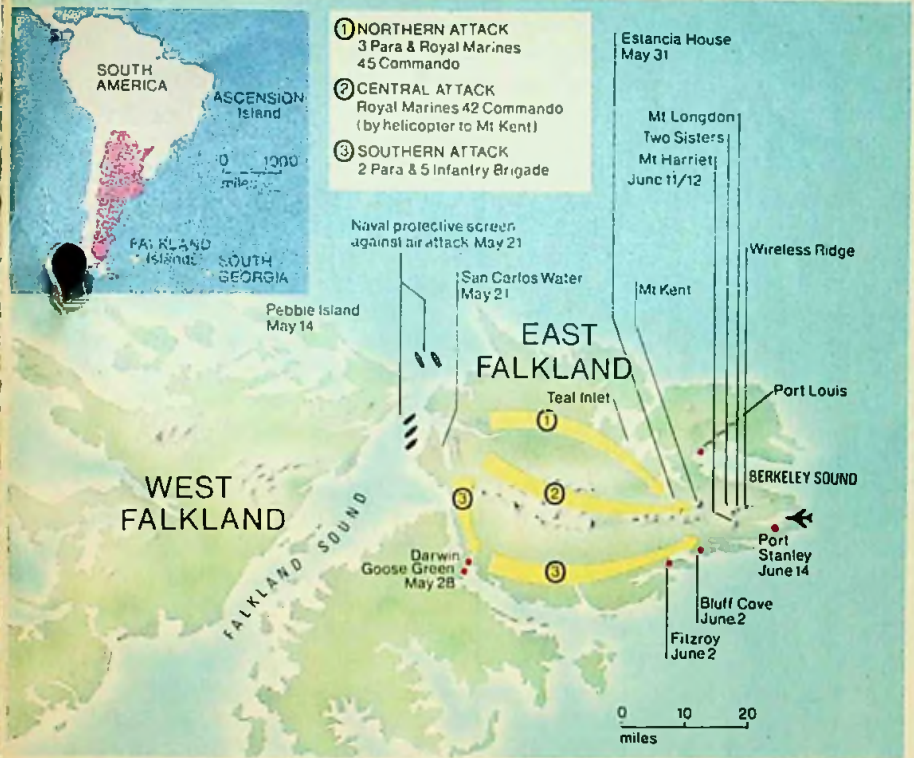


the fleet auxiliary vessel *Stromness* they fetched the portable airstrip, consisting of 10,000 eight-foot metal planks. Davies was so busy he could only snatch ten-minute naps. A deep tiredness set in. On D-Day plus six he was being briefed by an officer on board a supply ship when

knowledge. Intelligence Officers welcomed him warmly. It took them two days to debrief him.

Naafi Hero

JOHN LEAKE, 32, from Birmingham, was one of some 5,000 civilians sent with the 22,000 servicemen



involved in Operation Corporate (the official code-name of the Falklands campaign). A strapping six foot two with "Death Before Dishonour" tattooed on one arm, Leake had spent seven years in the Army before joining the Naafi, the organization that runs canteens and shops for the forces. Now he was Naafi manager aboard the frigate *Ardent*, on guard to the west of San Carlos Water. But he had not forgotten his army training. Thus on May 21, during the fiercest Argentine air attacks on the landings,

he found himself behind one of *Ardent's* general-purpose machine-guns in steel helmet, anti-flash mask and long white anti-flash gloves, blazing away at enemy planes.

Skyhawks and Mirages shrieked in. Bombs straddled the fo'c'sle. Then another bomb knocked out *Ardent's* chief anti-aircraft weaponry: her Sea Cat missile system.

More planes; more bombs. Helped by a young sailor who had been working in the Sea Cat's missile magazine, and who now fetched him

200-round ammunition belts from a near-by locker, Leake kept firing. An Argentine bomb exploded with an ear-splitting roar. Flames belched from the ship's centre. Soon *Ardent's* 4.5-inch gun was gone. Leake had just about the last weapon left.

The Argentine pilots now realized they were mauling a dying vessel. They concentrated their attacks. Watching the bombs topple down towards him, Leake experienced fear. He also felt very, very angry. He raised his streaming line of bullets into the underbelly of an approaching Skyhawk and saw pieces falling off the fuselage and wing. Direct hits. The Skyhawk plunged into the waves. But suddenly a pall of black smoke burst along the side of *Ardent*. A voice called: "Come on, John. We've been given the order to abandon ship."

Ardent sank. In the seven-hour battle she was hit by nine bombs and an unknown number of rockets. Of the ship's 200 crew, 22 were killed and 37 injured. The survivors were taken on board the frigate *Yar-mouth*, then to *Canberra*, where *Ardent's* captain, Commander Alan West, thanked John Leake, who had fired some 3,000 rounds, scoring the definite kill and a "possible." Commander West was able to say: "At least we went down fighting."

Horses of the Air

IT WAS perhaps inevitable that Argentina, a nation that had boasted legendary footballers, racing drivers

and polo players, should also produce some dashing fighter pilots. Dubbed by their countrymen "*potros del aire*" (horses of the air), they displayed much of the laconic heroism immortalized by the RAF in the Battle of Britain. They developed their own jaunty slang: a "fatty" was a British warship, a "phantom" an enemy aircraft.

To avoid British radar, some Argentine Mirage and Skyhawk pilots approached so low over the waves that their windscreens were covered with sea spray. Flying at the extreme limit of their 800-mile range, they often had as little as two minutes in which to select and attack a target. They then performed an aerial dance step they called the "*misilera*"—rocking violently from side to side to shake off the British missiles closing in on their engine exhaust. Often, it worked. But in the first four days following the British landings on May 21, the Argentine Air Force lost at least 26 aircraft; 11 per cent of its total number.

At the Santa Cruz air base on the southern tip of Argentina, pilot Lieutenant Ricardo Lucero couldn't fail to notice the empty places at dinner in the elegant mess. Senior officers assured him that his colleagues had been redeployed to other units—but Lucero suspected the truth. He and his fellow-Argentine pilots came to know San Carlos Water as "Death Valley."

Shot down himself on May 25, Lucero's eyes widened in amazement

when he was rescued and taken to the assault ship *Fearless*. It was a ship he had been told the Argentines had already sunk.

The Lady in Black

LONDON, May 25. News of the sinking of the 4,100-ton British destroyer *Coventry*, with 19 deaths, was given to Mrs Thatcher in her room at the House of Commons. Later that evening she heard of the attack on the 15,000-ton container ship *Atlantic Conveyor*: another 12 dead and crucial supplies, including helicopters, lost. The Prime Minister knew that as word of the casualties was broken to families round Britain, more and more people would ask if the cause in the Falklands—any cause—justified such loss of life.

Next day, dressed in black, as she had been after the *Sheffield* disaster, Mrs Thatcher left Downing Street to address Conservative Party members at the Royal Festival Hall. Her sleek official Daimler turned into Whitehall and the Prime Minister glanced at the typescript of her speech; then she put it down. It was only at moments like this that she could now snatch some respite from work. Over the past eight weeks her usually heavy schedule had inexorably built up to a punishing 20-hour daily grind of War Cabinet meetings, Parliamentary debates, constituency work and occasional visits to the Fleet Headquarters operations room at Northwood. Her speech at the Royal Festival Hall, however, radiated vigour and determination,

championing Britain's fight on behalf of the Falklanders.

"The older generation in this country," she reminded her audience, "and generations before them, have made sacrifices so that we could be a free society and belong to a community of nations which seeks to resolve disputes by civilized means. Today it falls to us to bear the same responsibility. We know the reality of war. We know its hazards and its dangers. We know the formidable task that faces our fighting men."

"Our cause is just. It is the cause of freedom and the rule of law. It is the cause of support for the weak against aggression by the strong. Let us then draw together in the name, not of jingoism, but of justice."

Many believe that Mrs Thatcher had made the finest speech of her career.

Fiddler on the Roof

IN SAN CARLOS WATER, after more than a week of Argentine air attacks, RN Lieutenant Bernie Bruen announced: "The fleet needs cheering up. They need entertainment." His friend, Royal Marine Colour Sergeant Colin Garwood, skipper of a landing craft, looked at him warily. He had known Bruen for many years. The tall red-bearded Cornishman was a talented violinist—and the life and soul of mess parties.

"I think they should have a recital," decided Bruen. Indeed, he happened to have his violin tucked under one arm. He scrambled

on to the wheelhouse roof of Garwood's landing craft. "Bernie, are you sure this is a good idea?" Garwood insisted. But Bruen was already tuning his violin, and Garwood cast off. To the rousing strains of the hornpipe *Captain Pugwash* they set out into San Carlos Water.

Sailors on board the destroyer *Exeter* stared in astonishment. Helicopter crews, cooks, gun parties crowded the deck rails. Then as the floating virtuoso came amidships they roared applause. Polishing off the final bars of *The Boys of Blue Hill*, Bruen gave an extravagant bow.

They had another good house on the frigate *Avenger*. The men whistled and cheered in pure, uncomplicated joy. And the maestro played on. Garwood thought: "At least we've kept clear of the command ship. *Fearless*."

"We'll do *Fearless* next," declared Bruen. Once again, a smash hit. Garwood's heart slipped when he noticed sleeves full of gold braid appearing by the bridge. "You realize I had a very promising career until this afternoon," he called out. The only reply from up above was a frenetic medley of English reels.

If Bruen was breaking any Service rules, Lord Nelson had his telescope to his blind eye that afternoon. In any case, Bruen had already made himself useful in other ways. He was a man of rare courage: a bomb disposal expert, tackling bombs on ship and ashore. On board the landing ship *Sir Galahad*, on May 25 and 26, Bruen had

struggled for eight and a half hours to move a 1,000-pound unexploded bomb lodged in an electrical charging shop. Every half hour or so, Bruen had to pause to wash battery acid off himself. Two days later, on board the landing ship *Sir Lancelot*, he had spent nearly 22 hours helping to remove another 1,000-pound bomb. Often perched upside-down, almost on his head, he had had to scrape delicately at the debris round the fuse with a dentist's pick.

Cold Baked Beans

MAY 27. Squadron Leader Bob Iveson, 34, was orbiting his Harrier jet at 10,000 feet over the north coast of East Falkland, awaiting the call to action, when a voice came over the radio: "I have a target for you. A company position."

Hurting down over the Argentine troops, raking them with 30 mm cannon fire, Iveson plunged into the puffy brown explosions of anti-aircraft shells. On his third and final run he felt a massive thump. His Harrier had been hit. The controls went lifeless. Smoke and flames swirled into the cockpit.

At a height of only 100 feet he ejected—and parachuting down, saw the burning fireball of his crashed aircraft.

Knowing he was behind the Argentine lines, Iveson stumbled off through the heather and tussock grass as fast as he could. After two hours he came to a lonely cottage. Aware it might be occupied by the enemy, he

hid for two hours in a gorse bush. By now it was growing dark. Approaching the cottage warily, he froze. An Argentine Huey helicopter, obviously searching for him, suddenly appeared. Its searchlight raked the ground. Then the helicopter flew off again.

After a night in the empty cottage—a shepherd's refuge—he ate from a tin of cold baked beans he found there. He didn't dare light a fire to heat the beans, as its smoke might alert the enemy.

He then headed north, hoping to hit a shore from which he might attract the attention of British forces, but was driven back by a violent rainstorm. Next day he spotted a British Gazelle helicopter and joyously fired the flare which was part of his escape kit. The Gazelle swooped down.

"Want a lift?" asked a Marine crewman.

Iveson beamed. It was good to be back in the war.

But on his way to *Hermes* he heard from the crackle of radio conversation that Squadron Leader Jerry Pook, who shared an office with him at their Cambridgeshire RAF base, was in trouble. Pook's Harrier had been hit and he was ejecting into the sea from 10,000 feet. Helicopters were being diverted to his rescue.

Just half an hour later, the two met in the pilots' messroom on *Hermes*.

"Good heavens, Jerry, you're all wet," said Iveson. "Been having a

swim?" Said Pook, "Something like that. I gather you've been taking a few days off in the country."

Goose Green

MAY 28. The troops advancing southward from the San Carlos beach-head, on their way to Stanley, needed to recapture Goose Green airfield, as well as the settlements of Goose Green and Darwin. The airfield lies beyond Darwin Hill, at the far end of an isthmus half a mile wide.

Opening battle at 2am, the 600 men of 2 Para under Colonel H. Jones ("H" to everyone) made good progress, silencing enemy trenches as they advanced along the isthmus. "A" Company, heading for Darwin Hill, then met stiff resistance. The hill was honeycombed with 22 fortified enemy trenches, carefully concealed and defended by lethal sniper and machine-gun fire. With sea on both sides of the isthmus, there was no way of outflanking the Argentines.

Daylight broke through teeming rain to reveal "A" Company held up in open country that offered no cover whatever. Increasingly accurate Argentine artillery and mortar fire shook the ground. Huge lumps of peat were blasted into the air. Shrapnel whistled and pinged overhead. Colonel H and his 12-strong headquarters group, having reached an inlet that cut in from the sea, had to crawl for cover under a ledge of peat, four feet high, at the shore's edge.

If Colonel H waited, he would have

more men and weapons to deliver a bigger punch, but the enemy would have more time to strengthen the ridge. Also, 2 Para risked losing the whole momentum of their attack, a penalty that would cost them an increasing loss in lives.

Colonel H, a lean man of boundless energy, was not prepared to let that happen. So determined had he been to lead his men into action in the Falklands that he had rushed back from a skiing holiday in France with his wife Sara, driving all night to get back home to stake the claim for 2 Para to be included in the Task Force.

Now he told his "A" Company commander, Major Dair Farrar-Hockley: "You have got to take those trenches. We have got to get the thing moving." He himself set off to launch an attack on a trench not far away.

"If anyone can make it, H will,"

one paratrooper was heard to mutter.

Checking the magazine of his Stirling sub-machine gun, H yelled, "Follow me!" and started to run, firing from the hip. Sergeant Barry Norman, close behind him, suddenly noticed a well-camouflaged enemy trench, concealed by a fold in the ground, 50 yards to their left. "Watch your back, sir!" he shouted. Colonel H, though, was intent on the machine-guns in the trench ahead. He was barely a yard from them when the hidden trench opened fire. He slipped and fell—but was immediately back on his feet and charging again at his target, submachine-gun blazing. Once more he fell. And this time he slumped against the hillside, moaning. A bullet had entered his neck and travelled almost the length of his body to come out by his groin. Sergeant Norman applied a field dressing; there



was not much else he could do. His colonel was now a ghostly grey.

Inspired by H's example, "A" Company kept up the attack until Darwin Hill was at last captured. No fewer than 74 prisoners were taken. H's devastating display of courage, as it was officially described later, had completely undermined the enemy's will to fight. Argentines who retreated told their colleagues in awe: "These troops are scared of nothing. They attack, attack and attack."

The British advance could resume. But Colonel H's life had ebbed away. Said his second-in-command, Major Chris Keeble, "He was a brave man—a magnificent soldier. It was his victory."

Now under the temporary command of Chris Keeble, a tall, grey-haired 40-year-old, the men of 2 Para captured the vital airfield and several hills, surrounding the enemy in the settlement of Goose Green.

As a bitterly cold night fell, the battlefield presented an eerie sight.

After 14 hours of fighting, some of the paratroopers huddled together under rain-sodden blankets. Others gathered round clumps of gorse set on fire by the relentless artillery shelling. Injured Argentine prisoners were saying the rosary: "Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee." Familiar words took on a new poignancy. "Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death..." Some, on both sides, would not live till morning.

Like warriors down the ages,

Keeble at the moment of triumph felt a black, aching despair at the waste of it all. But soon his most pressing thoughts were of how to finish the battle. His advanced patrols had reported that 112 civilians were being held in the community hall at Goose Green.

Next morning Keeble dispatched two of his prisoners with a white flag to the Argentine commanders. He pointed out that the civilians should be released, in keeping with the Geneva Convention. The Argentines must then surrender or take the consequences of military action.

After negotiations, the civilians were set free. They had spent a month with no bedding and minimal food. The Argentines laid down their arms—and Keeble was amazed at the size of the surrender ceremony. It turned out that the 600 British had taken on 1,600 of the enemy.

Back home in Britain, morale soared with this stunning victory. On the afternoon of May 29, however, the bone-tired men of 2 Para mourned their colonel and 14 other comrades.

MAY 29. Mrs Sara Jones drove back from her Saturday shopping and saw the army staff car outside her home at Church Crookham, near Aldershot in Hampshire. As the colonel's wife, she was used to being consulted on any one of a thousand problems. Then she saw the regimental colonel, Graham Farrell, and his wife Gloria waiting in the hall.

As soon as they turned towards her,

Sara Jones knew why they had come. It was about H. "It's bad news isn't it—he's dead?"

For a moment, all three clung together.

"Any Argies?"

JUNE 2. The ecstatic Falklanders released from the Goose Green community hall had returned home to find their possessions stolen, houses vandalized and excrement all over the floors. Now doubly eager to help the British advance to Stanley, they mentioned to Major Keeble that a single-strand telephone line looped along the coast of East Falkland. The line from Goose Green to the house at Swan Inlet, 17 miles towards Stanley, was known to be down. But might the line from Swan Inlet to Fitzroy (33 miles from Goose Green), where farm manager Ron Binnie had a telephone, still be working? If so, the British could ring up Binnie and find out about Argentine positions.

Keeble thought the idea worth a try. He sent Major John Crosland and 11 men in three helicopters to Swan Inlet. The house was deserted. Crosland marched to the old-fashioned telephone in the hall and cranked the handle.

Even today he still can't believe his luck. Almost immediately Ron Binnie answered. Crosland asked: "Any Argies around? No? Splendid! And what about Bluff Cove?" Binnie had just spoken to a friend in Bluff Cove, four miles further towards Stanley. "None there either?"

said Major Crosland. "Excellent!"

Crosland radioed the news to Major Keeble, whose problem was to capitalize on the absence of the Argentines by rushing troops forward. The pilot of the only helicopter at Goose Green, a heavy-lift Chinook, said he couldn't shift more than two loads before dark.

"How about 80 men in each load?" asked Keeble.

"The maximum for a Chinook is 44."

"Just watch," said Keeble. After some pushing and heaving, 80 Paras found they *could* cram into the Chinook—if nearly all stood up.

By nightfall there were 160 well-armed men on the hills above Fitzroy and Bluff Cove. The British had safely advanced 37 miles, thanks to one telephone call.

Home Base

ESTANCIA HOUSE, the four-bedroomed farmhouse of 32-year-old Tony Heathman, his wife Ailsa and infant daughter Nyree, stands on the north coast of East Falkland, 41 miles from San Carlos Water. Even before the San Carlos landings it was full. The Heathmans were host to a dozen Falklanders who had fled from Stanley. Then the men of 3 Para began arriving from San Carlos, as part of the northern half of the British pincer advance on the Falklands capital.

Heathman thought the least he could do was offer his remaining facilities. A base for Sea King helicopters was set up half a mile

away. The lighter Gazelle and Scout helicopters landed their passengers 20 yards from his front door; eight-ton Scorpion tanks rumbled up to his back door. His grounds were a supply dump for ammunition, fuel and general stores.

The farmhouse living-room became a medical centre manned by two doctors and several assistants, while in the kitchen a pot of stew simmered on the peat-burning stove as Ailsa cooked for up to 80 people each day. She baked bread and served coffee, tea and cocoa for hundreds more. The kitchen walls almost disappeared behind the rows of drying socks, trousers, camouflage smocks.

Twice this happy, bustling scene was disturbed by Argentine Mirages raiding the near-by helicopter base. But as Tony Heathman shrugged: "To regain one's freedom it's worth putting up with a few minor irritations."

Nightmare at Fitzroy

JUNE 8. The afternoon at Fitzroy, on the south-east coast of East Falkland, was sunny and calm. Royal Navy Lieutenant John Boughton,

Sea King helicopter pilot, 25 years old, busied himself with the relatively mundane task of shifting stores for 5 Infantry Brigade, who had moved up from Darwin. He was flying at 50 feet and had a Land Rover dangling from the helicopter strop when four Argentine Skyhawks and Mirages suddenly screamed past. They bombed the 5,670-ton landing ships *Sir Tristram* and *Sir Galahad*

which were unloading troops and supplies in Fitzroy Inlet. *Sir Galahad* was hit particularly badly. Black oily smoke rose from her.

Boughton at once swooped to the ground, dumped the Land Rover, and within minutes was hovering over the survivors he had spotted on *Sir Galahad's* fo'c'sle. Leading Aircrewman Roy Eggleston, at the helicopter's six-foot-wide open doorway, "talked" him into position for hoisting the first load of men on board. "Five yards to run, boss... Move forward two yards... Steady... Hold on just there... I'm lowering the strop."

The helicopter's rotor blades were spinning perilously close to the masts and rigging. Boughton glanced down at a scene of demonic fury. The whole of *Sir Galahad's* central open deck was a mass of flame. Ammunition exploded. Red tracer bullets sizzled skyward; mortar bombs *swooshed* out of the ship's side to plunge into the sea. Boughton sped for the regimental first aid post 400 yards away, on the low cliffs above the Inlet.

On his second run to *Sir Galahad* Boughton soon picked up a casualty who had to be taken ashore immediately; the man had lost a leg. Returning over the water for his third run, Boughton could now see half a dozen other helicopters droning round *Sir Galahad* like wasps. His squadron commander was hoisting a tiny figure in an orange survival suit from the dense smoke at the stern. Other pilots used the down draught of their rotor

blades to push rubber life rafts, filled with survivors, away from the blazing ship.

Each time Boughton returned to hover above *Sir Galahad* he was aware of the explosions down below becoming louder and more frequent. Every half-minute a giant fireball billowed to within 30 feet of his helicopter and a shower of unexploded mortar bombs clattered against its side.

After one massive boom, Boughton felt the helicopter lurch sideways. Calmly, Eggleston instructed over the intercom: "Move a yard back to your right, boss . . . Steady . . . Steady . . ."

On the seventh hover over the ship, Eggleston reported: "The last one coming up now. . . He is in the aircraft."

Fifty-three men had died in the Argentine attack on *Sir Galahad*; at least 100 were injured.

LATER that fateful afternoon, Lieutenant Boughton helped airlift *Sir Galahad*'s wounded to the field hospital at Ajax Bay overlooking San Carlos Water. Run by Surgeon Commander Rick Jolly with his team of 14 service doctors and 106 medical staff, the hospital consisted of an abandoned refrigeration plant, 80 yards long, once used for storing sheeps' carcasses. The roof was corrugated iron. The walls were of concrete and windowless.

Originally the Task Force intended service and civilian medical teams to

work alongside each other in the gleaming white hospital created on board *Canberra*. On May 21, however, after the liner had ventured into San Carlos Water and suffered hair-raising near-misses, she sped out to sea beyond the range of Argentine planes. Commander Jolly, a 35-year-old, dark-haired, genial giant of six-foot-four, had to set up his hospital at a few hours' notice at Ajax Bay. The field hospital, with red beret Paras working with green beret Marines, became known to all as "The Red and Green Life Machine."

Patients lay on stretchers. During air raids the surgeons donned tin hats and continued operating. When a couple of unexploded bombs lodged in the roof and were too unstable to be defused, a sandbag interior wall was built, shutting off that roof area, and the hospital made do with slightly less space. The staff did 24-hour shifts.

After particularly heavy days Jolly wandered round, a bottle in each hand, fortifying the early morning tea of those still at work. "Whisky for the Army," he prescribed. "Rum for the Navy."

The *Sir Galahad* wounded filled the hospital to capacity. Near-by marines who had heard of the disaster emerged from foxholes to help cut off patients' clothing and apply the anti-burn cream, Flamazine.

Jolly began photographing the worst injured for future instructional purposes. A voice piped up, "Will you take a picture of me, sir?" Jolly turned to see a Welsh Guardsman,

pitifully burned. "That's right, sir," someone else encouraged him. "You take his photograph. He's never looked so handsome in his life before, see."

Other lilting Welsh voices took up the banter. Jolly now knew that somehow they would get through the night.

In fact, every single one of the 650 British battle casualties treated in Ajax Bay field hospital during the Falklands war survived.

Hell

JUNE 11. Royal Marine Colour Sergeant Barrie Davies, skipper of the landing craft *Tango One* which took Colonel H and men of 2 Para ashore at San Carlos, was now at Fitzroy Inlet.

His task today: to salvage from *Sir Galahad*'s upper deck a portable pump which had somehow survived unscathed. It was needed to help pump out *Sir Tristram*.

As soon as Davies brought his landing craft alongside *Sir Galahad* he could feel the heat of the fires that still burned deep within the ship. He and the five-man salvage team hauled themselves up a ladder dangling from the deck.

While the team worked, Davies and one of his crew, Marine Jan Allin, explored to see if anything else might be salvaged. Walking noiselessly through six inches of black ash, they saw grim relics of the holocaust: rifle barrels twisted into grotesque shapes; artillery shells split wide

open. In what had been an office the chairs, desk, everything had been incinerated.

On the floor of a blackened mess-room lay a huddled mound that had once been a man.

After 15 minutes Davies could take no more. There was nothing further to salvage. Back on deck, Allin was the first to speak. "If I ever go to hell," he said, "it will hold no surprises. We've been there already."

Two weeks later *Sir Galahad* was towed out to sea and sunk as an official war grave.

The Decoy Prince

DURING the Falklands campaign, helicopters proved themselves to be indispensable aircraft of all work. One of their more unusual roles was described by a Sea King pilot with 820 Squadron. After the *Sheffield* was sunk, he became a decoy to lure Argentine Exocet missiles away from his carrier, *Invincible*.

As His Royal Highness Prince Andrew put it: "The helicopter hovers to one side of the carrier, presenting a large radar target to attract the missile. The Exocet comes in low over the waves, and is not supposed to be able to go above 27 feet. So when the missile is coming towards you, you gain height quickly above 27 feet, and it flies harmlessly underneath. In theory."

Like other helicopter pilots on decoy duty, the prince was always prepared to gain extra height. As he pointed out, "The day *Sheffield* was

hit, one Exocet flew over the mast of the ship—and that's well over 27 feet."

Tractor Brigade

ESTANCIA HOUSE, East Falkland. June 11. The British troops advancing towards Stanley were about to attack Mount Longdon. Two Sisters and Mount Harriet—key hills defending the capital, and well-defended sites of Argentine artillery. In the kitchen of Tony Heathman's farmhouse, Major Roger Patton, the 40-year-old second-in-command of 3 Para, addressed Falklanders who had driven a convoy of vital ammunition and fuel from Teal Inlet.

Patton warned them of the dangers in the next, final stage of the journey to the front line. He stressed, "I don't want you to feel under any pressure to go further." The red-cheeked Falklanders, dressed in a motley assortment of gumboots, fishing waders, jeans, anoraks and sou'westers, shook their heads vigorously. "We've helped you get this far," said farmer Keith Whitney. "The least we can do is finish the job."

At 9pm the convoy set off again: a dozen Land Rovers and farm tractors hauling trailers loaded with mortars, mortar bombs, anti-tank missiles and small arms ammunition. Escorting them were five BVs: small, caterpillar-tracked vehicles.

Progress was slow and chaotic. The convoy slid, slithered and floundered across the cloying peat bog. One tractor groaning uphill was suddenly

dragged backwards down again by its 2,000-pound load. Anti-tank missiles cascaded to the ground. The convoy drivers dismounted and, fumbling in the dark, loaded them back on again.

Occasional Argentine artillery shells crashed in, some just 200 yards away. As Trudy Morrison, a 29-year-old local farmer, exclaimed: "What a way to spend a Friday night!" Twice a modern four-wheel-drive tractor went to the aid of an older, frailer model. The second time, both vehicles sank to their axles in mud. A BV hauled them and their trailers out.

Eventually two tractors and four Land Rovers got through to a troop position a mile from Mount Longdon. They had taken six hours to cover less than three miles. But between them they had brought enough ammunition for the attack. Argentine shells now roared down, accompanied by star shells that drifted by parachute, bathing the hillside with eerie, silver light. Red splashes of flame on Mount Longdon's summit indicated the opening of the battle—a hard-fought, often hand-to-hand struggle that 3 Para would win.

JUNE 14: D-Day plus 24. 2 Para's eight-hour attack on Wireless Ridge—a cluster of low, undulating hills overlooking Stanley—was as bitter and difficult as any in the Falklands war. Salvo after salvo of Argentine shells whistled down on them out of the night sky. The men dived to the rain-soaked peat. The ground shook. They inched forward again. Floating

star shells revealed a moonscape of bomb-cratered bog.

Then at 10am, just as it was getting light, the rhythm of the Argentine firing hesitated—and stopped. Lieutenant Colonel David Chaundler, a tall, muscular 39-year-old now in command of the battalion (Major Feeble having reverted to second-in-command), heard a para call out to him: "The Argies are on the run, sir."

Stretched out in the wide valley below 2 Para was their goal at last: the white-painted houses of Stanley. The ant-like figures of the retreating Argentines could be seen streaming back towards the town. Most were not even bothering to run. Even from a mile's distance, Chaundler could sense their dejection. "Hold your fire!" he yelled to his men.

The fighting part of the campaign was over. There remained one coveted trophy: to be the first British troops to enter Stanley. By 1pm, 2 Para were down the valley and on to the metalled road leading to the capital. Faces blackened with camouflage cream, haggard with lack of sleep, they were festooned with machine-guns, anti-tank missiles, grenades, mud-caked webbing, ammunition pouches. No one gave an order but, as they marched along, hands fumbled in pockets and packs, helmets came off and on went the red berets.

Surrender

As 2 Para were entering Stanley, an Argentine army captain, Melbourne Hussey, radioed the command

ship *Fearless*: "Our side would like to talk."

Fearless was lying in San Carlos Water. At once a British negotiating team of two men—Marine Captain Rod Bell, 33, who speaks perfect Spanish, and 42-year-old SAS Colonel Mike Rose, an expert in military psychology—left the flight deck by Gazelle helicopter. After landing near Stanley's Government House, they were escorted to the near-by Secretariat building. They exchanged salutes with the Argentinian commander, General Mario Menendez, then went upstairs for two hours of talks.

There was only one sticking point. An Argentine lawyer who was present argued volubly that the surrender should not include Argentinian forces in West Falkland. Bell argued, equally forcefully, that since both West and East Falkland were on the same continental shelf, both forces should lay down their arms. As Bell suspected, the issue was not considered important enough to justify further war.

At 5pm Bell and Rose retired to another room in the Secretariat to prepare the final terms of surrender.

Later that evening the British land force commander, Major-General Jeremy Moore, 53, arrived by helicopter through the swirling clouds of a snowstorm. The next two hours of talks in the Secretariat included haggling over the implications of "unconditional surrender."

As Menendez spoke, Bell became

fascinated by the way in which the General held the tips of his fingers together. They were elegant, well cared-for hands. Wryly, Bell noted the contrast between the uniforms of the Argentine high command—crisp and immaculate—with those on his own side of the table. The British were tired, dishevelled men in camouflage battle smocks and muddy trousers.

Finally, at 9pm, General Menendez signed the Instrument of Surrender.

General Moore, a short, wiry man, now sauntered down Stanley's main street to break the news to the Falklanders. As he walked into the barn-like West Store, a crowd greeted him with a roar. Women rushed to kiss him; men pumped his hand.

"I'm Jeremy Moore," said the General. "Sorry it took us three weeks to get here."

During the Falklands campaign 255 members of the Task Force died and 777 were wounded.

Altogether 486 decorations were awarded. These included two posthumous VCs, one of which went to Colonel H. Jones. Among others decorated were his second-in-command, Major Chris Keeble (DSO); RN Lieutenant John Boughton, helicopter pilot (Queen's Gallantry Medal); RN Lieutenant Bernie Bruen, bomb disposal expert (DSC); John Leake, Naafi manager (DSM); Surgeon Commander Jock Jolly (OBE), and Terry Peck, former Falklands police chief (MBE). THE END

NEXT MONTH in Reader's Digest

Life or Death – Should Doctors Decide?

An examination of the issues involved in one of today's most controversial and agonizing debates

Sing a Song of Blackbirds

Portrait of a favourite garden visitor: nature's sleek, intrepid choir leader

How to Get Your Money Back

Advice on action to take if goods you've bought don't come up to scratch

The Haunted Office

Spine-chilling tale of the ghost that worked overtime

Murphy's Boy

Locked in his disturbed mind was a childhood world of brutality and bitter hatred. Psychologist Torey Hayden tells how she pieced together the clues to his past and sought to give him hope

FINANCIAL TIMES

10 MARCH 1983

Director of Public Works

FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Government of the Falkland Islands requires a Director of Public Works who will have responsibility for all functions of the Department of Public Works including roads, utilities, construction of new buildings and maintenance of existing government property. It will be necessary to liaise with the Military Authorities on engineering and allied aspects of projects such as roads, water supply and electricity.

Qualifications:

Applicants should be citizens of the United Kingdom, over 40 years of age, with a wide and extensive experience of civil engineering generally and be chartered civil or municipal engineers, preferably Fellows of the Institution. They should also have overseas experience and preferably have completed some military service with the Royal Engineers.

Appointment: 2-3 years with the possibility of extension. Local salary £7,656 per annum plus an allowance normally tax free in the range £12,942-£14,712 per annum. A terminal gratuity of 15% of local salary is payable. Other benefits include free family passages, children's education allowances and subsidised accommodation. An appointment grant of up to £300 and an interest free loan of up to £2,700 may be payable in certain circumstances.

Intending applicants should send a detailed curriculum vitae quoting ref (AH357 FI) Closing date for application is 30 March 1983 to:

**Appointments Officer,
Room AH 351,**

Overseas Development Administration,

**Abercrombie House,
Eaglesham Road,
East Kilbride,
Glasgow G75 8EA.**



OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

BRITAIN HELPING NATIONS
TO HELP THEMSELVES

A new chance for Argentina

FINANCIAL TIMES

10 MARCH 1983

GENERAL Reynaldo Bignone, the President of Argentina, has announced that general elections will be held on October 30 and that a civilian government will take office in January next year. Given the great unpredictability of Argentine politics there is always a chance that this decision will be overturned by the commanders of the three armed forces, the real masters of the country. If elections do take place they will return Argentina to civilian rule for the first time since the military coup d'état of 1976. This could prove an important step towards political stability.

The military who committed Argentina to the adventure of seizing the Falkland Islands took that calamitous step last year for two principal reasons. In the first instance they knew that they could rally almost the whole of the country behind them in a genuinely popular patriotic cause. In the second instance they wanted to deflect domestic and foreign opinion away from their economic failures and rising political unpopularity.

Argentina's defeat in the Falklands and the subsequent revelations about the degree of incompetence and disorganisation which accompanied General Galtieri's brief period of occupation of the islands rapidly pricked the fragile bubble of popularity which the military enjoyed when they landed at Port Stanley. The armed forces were shown up as not just economically and politically inept but also faltering in their grasp of military strategy and tactics.

Debate

In strikes, demonstrations and every other manifestation of public opinion it has been clear for months that the civilians do not want a continuance of military rule. Debate among the political parties and in the media has centred on how the soldiers could relinquish their political role without losing too much face, or becoming liable to be punished for the many transgressions and mistakes they committed when they were in power.

This debate has not yet concluded, but it has been eclipsed by the urgency of demands for a return to constitutional government and the military's realisation that unless they

move out of power rapidly they could be faced with a general uprising.

In any election the contest will be between two principal political groupings, the Peronists and the Radicals. The former who include the increasingly scattered and disorganised following of the late General Domingo Perón are united only by their selective memories of the dead dictator. Some of them admit the continued supremacy of his widow, former President Maria Estela Perón, others reject her leadership as a profanation of the populist ideas of her late husband. There is no reason to think that a new Peronist government would be any more coherent or competent than the one which ruled from 1973 and collapsed in chaos in 1976.

Advantage

The Radicals, though perhaps commanding fewer votes than all the warring Peronist factions lumped together, have the advantage of greater political coherence and discipline. A middle of the road party closely identified with the large Argentine lower middle class, the Radicals combine strong nationalism with a commitment to parliamentarianism and reform. They have made steady progress under their recently elected leader, Sr Raul Alfonsín.

In the perennial turbulence of Argentine politics with its wild swings of civilian and military opinion the Radicals may offer the most stable option. From Britain's point of view a properly elected Radical government which could claim real political legitimacy might be the best interlocutor when the time eventually came for talks with Argentina on the Falklands issue.

The Radicals, too, might provide the best economic management. Their experts are in process of working out new strategies to deal with Argentina's foreign debt problems within the context of the cautious pragmatism which that party has often before exhibited. The Radicals, to put it at its lowest, could scarcely do worse than the Peronists and the military who have driven a potentially rich country deep into almost unmanageable debt and uncontrollable inflation.

'Financial Times'

9/3/83

Argentine snub

Argentina will take no part in annual U.S. naval exercise with South America because of U.S. support for Britain in the Falkland conflict.

16 Daily Telegraph
8th March 1983

BUCCANEERS IN PORT STANLEY

By Our Air Correspondent

Two R A F Buccaneer aircraft arrived at Port Stanley on Saturday to show that Britain can quickly reinforce the Falkland Islands.

The Buccaneers of No. 12 Squadron, R A F Lossiemouth, flew from Scotland to Ascension Island, from where they were escorted by in-flight refuelling tankers on the eight-hour flight to R A F Stanley.

FALKLANDS CROSS THIEF BURGLED

A man who stole crosses from the Aldershot graves of Falkland war dead returned from a one-month jail sentence to find his home had been burgled. Goods valued at about £500 were taken from the home of Peter Smith, 42, in Castle Vale, Birmingham, it was discovered at the weekend.

Mr Smith said yesterday: "To burgle a man's house while he is in prison is as low as you can get."

Daily Telegraph
9/13/83

Argentina suspends £1bn repayment as loan talks go on

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS

ARGENTINA'S decision to suspend indefinitely repayment of nearly £1 billion of its foreign debt was taken with the full knowledge of the Western banks, according to banking sources in London.

These banks are now co-operating in negotiations for a new middle-term loan.

The decision announced by the Central Bank in Buenos Aires on Monday night took some British bankers by surprise yesterday.

But I understand from sources closely involved in the negotiations that British and other foreign banks will not suffer from the move.

Arrangements for the repayment of \$1.4 billion (£923 million) obtained by Argentina in a series of foreign exchange "swaps" with Western banks will now be included in the new medium-term loan package at present being discussed in Buenos Aires, the sources said.

'Swaps' move

Earlier banking circles had been puzzled by the central bank's abrupt statement that repayment of the "swaps" was being suspended indefinitely.

The junta has already twice rolled over repayments of the cash involved, but for specific

periods—180 days the first time and 90 days the second.

The decision to include the "swaps" in the new \$1.5 billion (£988 million) package being put together by a consortium of foreign banks—including the American Citibank and Lloyds—reflects Argentina's continuing liquidity problem.

Help from IMF

The economic crisis has been eased recently by the co-operation of the International Monetary Fund in renegotiating huge slices of the foreign debt due to be repaid this year, but Argentina still has to find millions of dollars to repay interest on its \$38.7 billion (£25.5 million) debt.

Earlier this year international banks agreed a \$1.1 million (£725,000) bridging loan, and the \$1.5 billion loan currently being negotiated was to have been the final segment of a rescue package crucial to the future of the Argentine economy.

The size of Argentina's foreign debt has become an explosive issue as the country heads towards elections at the end of this year, and allegations of past government corruption have become commonplace.

£14m in fund

Almost nine months after the recapture of the Falklands, the South Atlantic Fund is still receiving contributions of about £2,000 a day and now stands at £14,724,000. Captain Tony Lambourne, secretary of the fund, said yesterday.

TIMES

9-MAR-83

Unknown soldiers

From Mrs. Naomi Lloyd Hughes

Sir, In his letter in today's *Times* (March 1) the Rev A. A. Macintosh points out one error in the proposed inscription. Here is a second mistake in the original wording. Soldiers from the country called Argentina are Argentine soldiers (not Argentinian).

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant.

NAOMI LLOYD HUGHES,
25 George Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham.
March 1.

TIMES

9-3-83

Delhi hears demand for Falklands

Argentina has urged the non-aligned summit meeting in Delhi to declare the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands an integral part of South America.

An amendment submitted by Argentina for inclusion in the summit's final political declaration said Britain's military and naval presence in the South Atlantic affected the stability of the area.

The summit was an opportunity to try to heal rifts. The leaders of Egypt and Jordan met yesterday for the first time since Cairo was ostracized by the Arab world in 1979 for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

Egyptian officials said President Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan met for two hours in private.

President Gemayel of Lebanon who decided to attend on at the last minute had talks with President Assad of Syria in their first meeting since Mr Gemayel came to power last September.

Gandhi demand, page

TUES 8/3

Falklands rescue for round-world sailor

By TONY FAIRCHILD in Rio de Janeiro

THE Royal Navy came to the rescue yesterday when an entrant in the single-handed round-the-world yacht race ran aground in the Falkland Islands.

Richard McBride, 38, a ship-builder from Kakoura, New Zealand, thought his schooner, City of Dunedin, had struck an outcrop of rock off the Falklands.

He put out a distress signal and established a radio link with race headquarters at Newport, Rhode Island. The race committee informed the Royal Navy.

The destroyer Cardiff, 4,100 tons, and the frigates Penelope, 5,200 tons, and Achilles, 2,962 tons, co-ordinated his rescue.

A Navy helicopter landed alongside him and found that he had "hit the Falklands straight in the middle"—on the south-west corner of East Falkland.

McBride, once an Antarctic dog-sled driver, and competing in his first major ocean race, was well, but his yacht was hard aground and in danger of capsizing on a falling tide.

Desmond Hampton, one of three Britons who started the four-stage race, suffered a similar mishap when he went aground just short of Sydney with Gipsy Moth V, the late



Sir Francis Chichester's last yacht, which was a total wreck. More recently, within the last three weeks, Richard Broadhead, the only Briton left in the race, rescued the French yachtsman Jacques de Roux from his sinking yacht in the Southern Ocean.

Broadhead, expected to be given time allowance for the hours spent rescuing his fellow yachtsmen, since transferred to a French warship, is expected in Rio within 10 days.

He is at present lying fifth of the nine yachts still at sea and led by Philippe Jeantot, of France, expected in Rio today or tomorrow. Jeantot was first also in Cape Town and Sydney, the first two of the three compulsory staging points of the race.

The crew of Penelope, are investigating the possibility of salvaging the yacht before the late autumn winds smash her to pieces.

'Guardian'
7/3/83

VC's death can never be in vain'

By Alan Hamilton

Even if the Falklands Islands were handed to Argentina by democratic agreement at some future date, Colonel "H" Jones would not have died in vain, his widow says in an interview published today.

The commander of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who was killed in the battle for Darwin and Goose Green, was one of two casualties to be awarded the posthumous VC.

Mrs Sara Jones, interviewed by *Options* magazine, says that if there was eventual agreement round a table to hand the islands over to Argentina, she would still feel that her husband had fought and died for a principle.

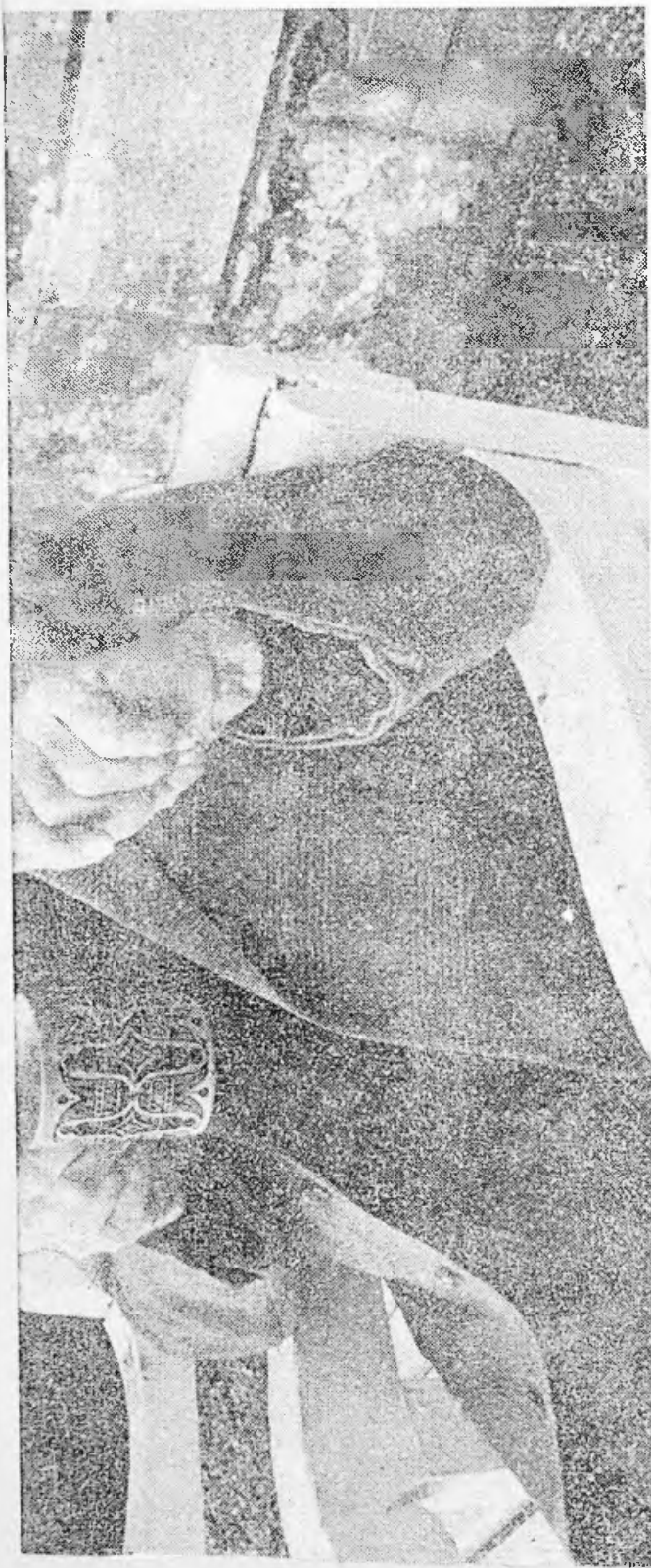
"Argentina walked in as an aggressor and you cannot let that sort of thing happen. Of course you cannot hand it to the Argentines on a plate - then it would all have been for nothing - and I cannot believe that would ever happen."

Mrs Jones says that interest in the Falklands campaign has gone on for too long, and that it is time to stop treating those involved as heroes.

Some aspects of government policy in the campaign attract criticism from Mrs Jones, particularly the decision to withdraw the ice-freighter *Endurance*.

● Fresh evidence that Britain was supplying Argentina with military equipment almost up to the eve of its invasion of the Falklands Islands is given in a *World in Action* programme to be transmitted tonight by Granada Television.

Aldershot in South Atlantic,
page 8



Nick Rogers

Tea and empathy at home in Cornwall, a highbrow fortress against the 'filthy new social order'

tremendously popular historian with 50 books behind him and a large public following, particularly in the United States where he is a frequent guest on chat shows.

Critics and fellow academics are much less kind about his prodigious output. In his specialist field of Tudor history, he is widely regarded as the best since 'Trevelyan'; but his incursions into the life of Shakespeare, and his often strange literary enthusiasms, from *Homosexuals In History* to *Three Cornish Cats*, are widely dismissed by the admittedly feline academic and

been able to make so many discoveries about Raleigh, Grenville and Shakespeare.

"I share Elizabethan standards and values: a broad outlook, incentive, and hard work. But I myself could not be an Elizabethan, because I am not a man of action." He tried once to be a man of action, as Labour candidate for his Cornish constituency from 1930 to 1940. He abandoned it because of fragile health (he has suffered from a duodenal ulcer since childhood) and because, he says, appeasement and the ensuing war had made party political differences

show. You must always remember that ordinary people are third-rate. Several generations ago, people would have had a much better idea of standards. I am working class, but I share with the aristocracy their absolute standards.

"The only thing to do with a filthy society is to turn your back on it. I am an internal exile. I note that my fellow writers like Graham Greene who profess to

Wherever it comes from, the third-rate English humbugs do not think much of Rowse's excursions into poetry, one critic going so far as to compare it with the sublime awfulness of William McGonagall. The doctor remains unbowed.

"I know perfectly well that I am a far better poet than most published today. I have complete contempt for the filthy rubbish that is published in *The Times Literary Supplement*. It is my job to be first-rate. If you write formless verse, it is unmemorable. It is sheer slackness of standards. Modern poets, on the

'I am a far better poet'

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

Falklands reconstruction gets under way

THE BRITISH construction industry is starting to play an increasingly important role in plans for the reconstruction and development of the war damaged Falkland Islands.

British contractors and consulting engineers are being asked to prepare tenders for a varied shopping list of civil engineering works.

The total value, spread over several years, could be well in excess of £200m. Some contracts have already been let as reconstruction work gets under way.

The largest single item of expenditure will be new airfield facilities. Two alternatives are being considered: an expansion of the existing airfield at Port Stanley, built by Johnston Construction in 1975; or a new airfield at Mount Pleasant, about 30 miles west of Port Stanley.

The decision will have major implications for other military installation and infrastructure contracts.

For example it would seem logical to assume that the islands' main garrison headquarters would be situated reasonably close to the airfield. If the Mount Pleasant site were chosen it could affect the proposed 60-mile road link (al-

ready under construction) between Port Stanley, Bluff Cove, Mount Pleasant and Darwin.

The route between Port Stanley and Bluff Cove had been largely completed by the Falklands Public Works Department when the Argentine invasion took place. The road is being built to "minimum, all-weather gravel standards" and the stretch between Mount Pleasant and Port Stanley would need to be upgraded if it is to carry additional airfield traffic.

It has been estimated that, to complete the road to existing planned standards, could cost around £5m, using outside contractors.

The Ministry of Defence is being characteristically coy about the possible costs of the airfield project. The most reasonable "guesstimate" is that costs could be between £100m and £200m, probably nearer the latter.

The Property Services Agency which owns and manages Government property will be handling negotiations on behalf of the MoD. Three construction consortia, containing some of "Britain's largest and most experienced international contracting groups," have been asked to consider tendering

and will be sending experts to look at potential sites.

The three teams of British contractors which are due to fly to the Falklands shortly are made up of a Costain/Tarmac joint venture; Wimpey, which has joined forces with Taylor Woodrow; and Laing and Mowlem, also working together. It is hoped that construction of the new airfield facilities might

start in October or November this year.

Most of the works planned for the Falklands will be modest by international standards. They will, however, test the management, organising skills and resourcefulness of the companies involved.

The overwhelming problem is the remoteness of the Falklands, more than 8,000 miles

away from Britain in the South Atlantic. Virtually everything contractors will require (local rock and sand apart) will have to be shipped. Local labour is in short supply so that men, materials, heavy equipment and back-up services for workers and management will have to be imported.

Two projects are already under way. A small but well

equipped team led by the Crown Agents and including key representatives from John Mowlem and Fairclough Construction has been dispatched to assist with urgent repairs to roads in Port Stanley. The total cost of repairing around 4 miles of roads is estimated at £2.5m.

In addition a contract for the supply and erection of 54 prefabricated houses was won last year by James Brewster Associates. The total costs of the works, including the cost of shipping materials and equipment as well as site service work to be handled by the Public Works Department, is likely to be around £6m.

The selection of Brewster—from a shortlist of 11 candidates—was strongly criticised by the British Woodworking Federation which complained that timber-frameshells for the homes was to be supplied by Sweden.

Construction equipment used for the road repairs and housing projects is to be left on the islands when the contracts are completed, says the Overseas Development Administration, the body responsible for the allocation of overseas aid. It says that some Port Stanley streets have been damaged by

the heavy traffic they now have to handle.

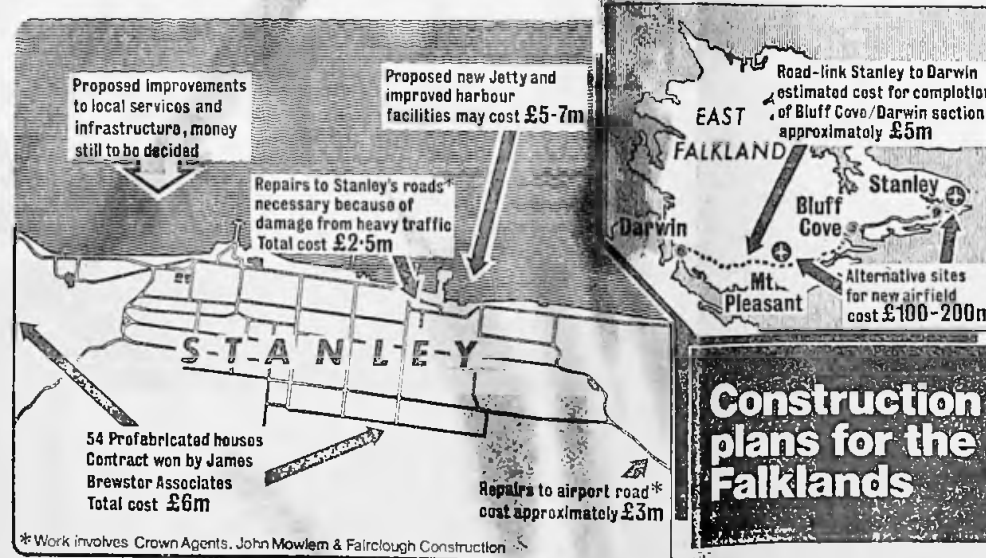
In addition, repairs and improvements are required to the road leading from the town to the Port Stanley airfield. The Crown Agents / Mowlem / Fairclough combination is also expected to handle this work and will be sending out an additional team to the Falklands. Total costs could be around £3m.

Aside from all these works, the Government has also made available £31m for the development of the islands. About half this is expected to be spent on construction projects.

Included in the potential shopping list is a new jetty and improved harbour facilities, which could cost in the region of £5m to £7m. Selected consultants are expected to be asked to tender for a feasibility study within the next few days.

Other money has been earmarked for improvements to local services and infrastructure, such as roads, power, water and sewerage systems. How and where this money will be spent may depend upon whether the military will continue to be based largely in Port Stanley.

ANDREW TAYLOR



A CUSTOMARY Falklands silence fell on the audience after the kind visiting person had finished a slide show to "Pop" Fred Hubbard and fellow patients at Stanley Hospital. No cheers, not a clap, not a mouse stirring. Then Pop gave vent to his gratitude. "Not bad," he said loudly.

Turning to his next door neighbour, he whispered, "You've got to butter them up or they won't come back." He happened to be talking to the kind person's wife. "He truly thought he was buttering me up — no question about it," the kind person remembers. Pop Hubbard, now long dead, moved about the islands several times during his 70 years — a process his acquaintance, Willie Morrison calls "frigging about rather a lot" — and also spent 20 years as a gaucho in Patagonia. But he rarely let his experience of the world cramp his public style and he was by no means alone in this.

Falklanders do not find it easy to be publicly demonstrative, when the only recent royal visitor in their history, the young hirsute Duke of Edinburgh, stepped ashore in the 1950s he was met by streetfuls of people "looking on" (a local phrase also used in the north of England) — staring curiously, neutrally, assessingly. No cheers, no clapping until he had won what was judged a fair race on Stanley track. Restraints thawed.

They are slow-burning people. Normally it doesn't matter because strangers with time to get to know them learn to value them. But time is what will be lacking on April 12. When as many of them worry their temperament will matter as it has never mattered before.

At about 11 o'clock on that morning 500 relatives of the 255 British servicemen who died while restoring the freedom of the Falklands will begin arriving on the jetty beside the remains of the Sir Tristram which looks like a picnic can that has exploded after being left too long on the fire.

Their civic visit will last only six hours. The dilemma as their hosts see it is how will people use the social demonstrativeness of peripatetic forces' life react if they



The new military cemetery near Darwin, one of the places that relatives of the Falkland's dead will visit on April 6

JOHN EZARD in Port Stanley on how islanders will receive relatives of the men who died in the Falklands

Six hours in loving memory of the fallen

find themselves "looked on" at in the streets? How do you deal with possible extremes of rekindled grief if you rarely put your arms around anyone in public? And how do you avoid the danger that people—towards whom, of all the people in the world, you want to act truthfully—will go back to Britain saying, "well if that's all they seem to care, the deaths were not worth it."

There will be none of the stunts which a London public relations consultant might concoct to disguise this problem: no school-children marshalled to spell out thank you on Philomel Hill overlooking the harbour, no half-mile-long banner legible from the relatives' ship, the Cunard Countess. The reaction if you mention these ideas is an almost universal wince. "It's not the style

here," says Dick Baker, the island Government chief secretary.

Instead the civilian reception committee has opted to give its visitors a glimpse of the ordinary life of the capital. Their menfolk died trying to reach. The schools will be putting on a little exhibition of work. Dick Baker says. Tours will be arranged around the six shops and the cathedral and, on request, to the mountains outside the town. A "stand-up tea and buns" will be held in the Town Hall. But the heart of the afternoon will be spent in homes with the relatives going in groups of up to three into 200 houses, two thirds of the total number in Stanley. What happens there, in the back kitchens and front rooms after the shy introductions of the jetty, will be kept as private as it can

be from interventions by the 20 press men who have applied to fly down from Britain in what one Stanley professional worker calls "majestic bad taste." In the evening the Countess will sail—with, perhaps a little goodbye music from the jetty back to its plane link at Montevideo.

"I think we shall get our feelings across," says Velma Malcolm, one of the organisers. "It's better to give them a nice smile and mean it than kiss them and not mean it," says Irene Revie. "It's a poor bloody show that they're being brought here for such a short time," says Joe Booth, the Falkland Islands Company's Welsh origin who will entertain many of the relatives of the men who died on the Galahad and Sir Tristram.

If the relatives could stay a little longer, they would soon find demonstrativeness. It is there in the dances which, although refreshments are prudently confined to orangeade, become foot-mashingly enthusiastic. As well as disco tunes like the Dashing White Sergeant, there is a number very like the Okey Cokey, except that instead of putting your left leg out you do penguin movements. The name is called the Birdie Dance, but you still shake it all about.

And another kind of demonstrativeness is there if you walk 400 yards to the town's eastern outskirts and go through the side gate of the cemetery. Almost the first memorial inscription inside the wall is to "May Mary, dearly beloved wife." There are tributes to Dear Mum and to Our Sweet Gran

and little home-made verses of the kind which churches are trying to ban from English graveyards. "In loving memory my husband Donald McAskill, 1976, deep in my heart lies a picture of my loved one laid to rest. In memory I will keep him because he was the best."

Near that is a stone "sacred to the memory of five children, all sons of John and Sarah Wellington, of whom the first died in 1848 aged 2 years and the last in 1853 aged four months. Three are deposited at Port Louis and two lie buried here."

If you walk on from there, you make a discovery. More than a quarter of the 2,063 in this cemetery, almost up to the present day, are those of human beings, mostly male, who have died in their childhoods, teens, twenties

and thirties and in the prime of life. These are the graves of the other, everyday Falklands task force men and women who did dangerous work with no fame and little honour in farms and on boats far—until the advent of the Beaver aircraft and the flying doctor—from medical help.

They were alternately rain-drenched and wind-dried on interminable horse rides, a standard recipe for tuberculosis. TB ran rife and unreported, especially in the pockets of the camp. It was one of the things that winnowed the Falklands of younger people for generations until in 1953 Dr Peter Richter started going round in a small boat, the Philomel, with screening equipment. In that severe winter, families yomped, rode and sleighed for days

through rain and blizzards to meet him.

Willie Morrison, the star jockey of last week's Stanley races, was one of them. "Everyone in Goose Green got done except Tom Holland," he recalls. Dr Richter's work in swabbing almost 94 per cent of the camp population almost eradicated TB from the Falklands. Many of those he found incubating the disease, including Les Halliday the present customs and excise officer, are alive today thanks to the fresh air cabins put up at Stanley Hospital before antibiotics reached the islands.

If the British Task Force relatives look hard east from the swimming pool deck or sundeck of the Countess, they will see the remains of the Philomel, just another wreck now. If they look at it and the graveyard and think of all the history these two sites between them encompass, they may feel there is a case—whatever happens when they later step ashore on the jetty at the bottom of Philomel Hill—for a certain mutuality of respect.

Two days earlier, they will have visited another kind of cemetery—the military one housing or commemorating their own dead. San Carlos. There new inscriptions carved in Ipswich have already gone up which are not dissimilar in tone to those in the Stanley graveyard: "Colin, we believe life and death are one even as the river and the sea are one"; "our beloved son Keith, brother to Colin and Mark"; "and they died but the flag of England flew free ere the spirit passed"; "rest peacefully my love, always in our thoughts, love wife Christine and son Paul."

The cemetery is at Blue Beach, to which white horses race in on dark-blue water from Bomb Alley and the radar-dotted heights of Blue Bay. Blue Beach was a good landing place. Whether it is a good resting place would be presumptuous to say. But the relatives may reflect that, if things had worked out differently and if this windy place had been nearer home, they would often have driven out here in anoraks with their husbands, sons and fathers, sat in the car with a Thermos flask and looked at the inexhaustible view.

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FINANCIAL TIMES Falklands 7/31/83 airfield study launched

By Andrew Taylor

THREE teams of British contractors are expected to fly to the Falkland Islands shortly to investigate the alternative sites for new airfield facilities.

The three consortia which have been asked to tender for the project are understood to comprise a joint venture involving John Laing and Mowlem; Taylor Woodrow and George Wimpey; and a third partnership involving Tarmac and Costain.

The civilian airfield at Port Stanley, with a 4,000-ft asphalt runway built by Johnston Construction in 1975, is inadequate. It is planned either to expand this airfield or build a new one at Mount Pleasant, about 30 miles west of Port Stanley.

The Ministry of Defence, which is funding the work, has declined to estimate possible costs, but they are thought likely to be £100m-£200m and probably nearer the upper limit.

The new airfield is expected to include an 8,000 ft runway capable of accommodating wide-bodied jets and Phantom fighters. It will also have to house sophisticated military communications equipment and accommodate military personnel.

It is likely to be defended by Rapier surface-to-air missiles and will have to provide fuel, shelter and hangar facilities capable of supporting an extended military, as well as civilian, presence.

It is hoped that once the site and contractors have been chosen, construction may begin in October or November.

In addition to the problem of shipping workers and machinery such a vast distance, contractors will face harsh weather which will make construction difficult. Hard local rocks which will add to the wear and tear on machinery such as rock crushers.

Falklands reconstruction,
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BUSINESS

Consortia consider Falkland venture

● THREE TEAMS of UK contractors are expected to fly to the Falklands to investigate sites for new airfield facilities which could cost about £200m. The three consortia have been asked to prepare tenders for the project. Back Page

7/3/83
Graham

2 HOME

Staking his chips on a Falklands future

From John Ezard
In Port Stanley

DAVID Hawksworth and Bill Hinds arrived in the Falklands just three weeks ago, hoping to make their lives here.

David, aged 35, from Elsecar, near Barnsley, came to explore the possibilities of setting up the first fish and chip shop in the South Atlantic, and Bill, from Weston-super-Mare, came to take up the only job he has managed to get after 20 months' unemployment in Britain — as the Falkland Island Company's £3,750 a year Camp shipping clerk.

But for David things were still up in the air. He'd had three offers for his fish and chip shop at Elsecar, but after three weeks searching and only 24 hours before he was due to board the flight which will return him to the UK tonight, he was without any real prospect of suitable shop premises in Stanley, or of reliable fish supplies.

"I hadn't realised before I came that full employment here means that nobody is going to go out fishing merely to serve my needs. Nothing's really happening for me at the moment. The place isn't really sorted out yet after the war," he said.

Then on Saturday, the day of the flight, things suddenly came together. Through the Stanley grapevine, he heard that a shop bang in the middle of Stanley was coming on the market, part of a well-built family house. He now has an option on it at an affordable price.

Moreover, the Falklands development officer, John Reid, came back from a day spent on a trawler of the Polish fishing fleet with news of a probable supply of hake, whiting and squid.

David is also one of three candidates for a pub tenancy if Everards brewery succeeds in unscrambling the legal knitting around the derelict, absentee Anglo-Argentine-owned Globe Hotel, within yards of the jetty used by 900 soldiers a day.

"for a long talk with the wife," buoyed up by the possibility of bringing over not only her and their two children this autumn but also his brother and sister-in-law.

It would be a wrench but David thinks they could stand the wind and find it a good place to live.

"I like it," he said, "you can drop into any house you want and have a smokeo." A smokeo appears to be a Falklands word for a break from work, a cup of tea and a cigarette.

But there are complications. All the publicity over the lack of a chippie has prompted a local consortium to propose using a mobile van. And a tracked food shop on wheels brought by a British entrepreneur is due to arrive any moment. However, Mr Reid thinks there is room for all of them to make a very good living.

These are small steps towards the Shackleton report target of several hundred immigrants. Mr Reid said: "There are perhaps five more people I know about whom I would be happy to see coming off a ship in the next month, but no more. The last thing we want is people coming unprepared, going home disappointed."

"I think that in the immediate future things will go fairly slowly, apart from little service operators like David. But in a couple of years you could get an explosion, with a lot of people doing quite big things."

Bill Hinds is another statistic in this process. The recent raw facts of his life have mostly been bad. Ex-merchant navy deck boy, ex-furnaceman, he worked and studied his way up to become health and safety officer of Chloride, then helped to run a small bar. The Canadian Connection, in Weston-super-Mare. He later sank his assets into a riding stable. His partner left, the stables went bankrupt, and Bill lost "my house, my business, my savings, and even my animals." His wife left too.

His job entails taking by radio telephone, processing insuring and supervising the dispatch of orders for the whole rural Falklands.

In the last three weeks he has decided to ask his fiancée to come out, marry him, and stay here until their retirement.

Junta's shells 'made in PM's home town'

By Dennis Barker

Anti-aircraft shells used against British forces in the Falklands battle for Goose Green were of a type made in the Prime Minister's home town, it is alleged in a television programme to be broadcast tonight.

The makers, the British Manufacturing and Research Company, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, refused to comment on their export of armaments, except to say that they are carried out in accordance with Government regulations.

The sales were brought to

light by Granada Television's World In Action team, who enlarged photographs of anti-aircraft ammunition captured from the Argentinians in the Falklands.

The results of their investigation suggest that sales of arms to an increasingly intransigent Argentina first took place under the Wilson government when Britain built a warship for Argentina and helped her to build another. Britain continued to sell Blowpipe missiles, made by Short Brothers of Belfast.

A former employee of the

Grantham company, Mr. Noel Angel, who had worked there for 21 years before being made redundant, said that he remembered an order worth about £50 million for crates of 35 millimetre ammunition.

Early in March last year, when the Argentinians were on the point of invading, it became known that Argentina was the client for a consignment of gun mounts, said Mr Angel.

In the programme, dockers talk about Seaguard missile spares from British Aerospace being shipped to Argentina. On

March 29, an Argentinian aeroplane flew out of Heathrow with military spares.

Sir Frank Cooper, Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Defence at the time of the Falklands dispute, now retired, said that if Britain had not sold armaments others would have.

Britain could not go back on contracts for parts of Exocets being made by France or warships being made in Germany.

On the whole, he thought the sales of armaments had been well handled by the Government.

TIMES
2/3/83

John Vincent

Belize: another sticky wicket

Mr Callaghan recently denounced the Fortress Falklands policy as the worst possible outcome, worse than defeat, worse than occupation. Be that as it may, it reminds us that we have not one but two "Fortresses" (as minimal self-defence is now called) in Latin America, the other being Belize. And Mr Callaghan himself sustained, perhaps invented, Fortress Belize, long before Fortress Falklands was heard of.

Belize is one of the nicer bits of nowhere. Formerly British Honduras, it was a quiet colonial backwater from 1862 to 1981, when after 17 years of full internal self-rule it became the 45th member of the Commonwealth. It has, as they say, great potential, and not much else. Twice the size of Jamaica, it has plenty of room for its small population of about 145,000. A little bit of a black Caribbean civilization accidentally tethered to the Latin American mainland, it remains a good place to be arrested - always the best test of civilization.

Politically stable, democratic, English-speaking, it generally gets a good press. It is black, cricket-playing, beer-drinking, calypso-singing, which helps. Economic hiccups apart, there ought not to be a Belize problem. Unfortunately, there is. Guatemala believes that Belize is part of Guatemala. Its constitution says so. Since the 1930s, Guatemalan pressure has steadily increased.

This is ticklish. Guatemala, the largest Central American state, has forces which outnumber those of Belize by 20 to 1. Without a protector like Britain (or Cuba?) Belize is nothing. The Guatemalan army are the veterans of many a fierce combat against women, children, peasants and refugees; the Belizeans have tried only fast bowling.

We have about 1,800 troops, some Barriers and Rapiers, and a frigate somewhere in the offing, to act as a deterrent. This precaution is not expensive - perhaps about £25m a year - but as Guatemala broke off diplomatic relations with London in 1981, and refused to recognize independent Belize, it is as well to hint that they would be unwise to proceed further. Guatemala is being told it could not get away with it, and besides, the southern part of the frontier happens to be ideal Gurkha country.

If we have got our Belize policy right, it is more by good luck than by good sense. We were helped by an airfield, by Third World support, by Mexican and US dislike of Central American instability and a possible Cuban "rescue" of Belize. Despite all this on our side, the Foreign Office, from habit, still signalled abject weakness to Guatemala, and a Franks Report on Belize would make curious reading.

We have indeed achieved peace in Belize by preparing for war. Our preparedness in Belize may even partly account for our unpreparedness in the Falklands. At any rate, so

far preparedness has worked well and cheaply and without loss of life.

The real story is less laudable. In the days of Mr Callaghan, the Sailor King, his Foreign Secretary decided to settle the Belize question. On whose terms? Why, those of Guatemala, of course. Poor Mr Callaghan, poor Dr Owen: they were rumbled by *The Guardian* in a rather seedy attempt to chop up Belize.

The Guardian, indignant at this affront to our Caribbean kith and kin, raised hell in a sort of multi-racial Jingoism, and Messrs Callaghan and Owen, caught with their trousers very definitely down, beat a hasty retreat in the direction of a firm policy.

History repeated itself under the Tories. First, Lord Carrington made a final and definitive settlement with Guatemala. Like the constitutions of the late Sir Ivor Jennings, it did not outlast the rainy season. Then Mr Nicolas Ridley, a talented and realistic FO minister, was reported as giving a clear warning to the inoffensive Belize that it must come to terms, and that Britain could not shelter it for ever. Well, well. And just before the Falklands, there were reports of an imminent withdrawal of British protection.

Let us hope these were not signals to the Guatemalan military that Britain would give them a free hand. They were, no doubt, just manifestations of the British genius for compromise. The trouble is that ruling men in Guatemala might not have appreciated the message. They might have thought the FO was aiming at two sell-outs in one *annus mirabilis*. Then we should have had two wars on our hands.

The quarrel is an absurdity. No Guatemalan has ever ruled in Belize. The issue, as presented in Guatemalan state papers, is a purely legal one. There is no boundary issue, no economic issue, no irredentism. The quarrel is about the true meaning of a Treaty of 1859. If we look at its text alone, Guatemala has not a leg to stand on; if we look at the surrounding circumstances, it has a case of sorts on grounds of fair play.

The amusing side is that those who now fume at Fortress Falklands were those who invented Fortress Belize. The liberal conscience was willing to fight for Belize, and hence has not had to. The liberal conscience, as interpreted by the FO, was unwilling to defend the Falklands, and hence a thousand lie dead. Jolly black men in the Caribbean are a moral issue; dour Scottish shepherds in the South Atlantic are not - until the war starts. The only lasting solution to the Falklands question is to have black shepherds. If liberalism had run a Jingo outcry over the Falklands in the 1970s, how many young men would now be alive?

The author is Professor of Modern History at the University of Bristol.

**Minister says figures should
be taken with a pinch of salt**

Raison retreats over '£800m airport plan' for Falklands

The Overseas Development Minister, Mr Timothy Raison, yesterday played down his Port Stanley pronouncement about plans for a second major airport on the Falklands, costing £800 million.

Mr Raison, who returned from the Falklands on Monday, after joining the islanders' 150th anniversary celebrations, is understood to have been met by Government colleagues who were surprised at the reported figures on the cost of a new airport.

The £800 million estimate for the airport, which Mr Raison said in Port Stanley last week would soon be attracting British civilian contractors, was last night said by the minister as "not deserving too much credence."

Reports of the figures needed to be taken with a large pinch of salt, he said.

The vast projected cost of a new airport compares with the modest allocations for the Falklands already announced by the Government: £15 million is to be spent on rehabilitation and a further £31 million on development.

Mr Raison said at a press briefing in London that the airport was still very much a subject for "a great deal of thought" both to its size and location. Its strategic position would necessarily be the final decision of the Ministry of Defence.

"No decision has yet been made and a lot of attention is being given to the way the airport should be developed," he said.

The Ministry of Defence has apparently allocated £3 million towards the building of a new road to the present airport at Stanley.

But Mr Raison said that the Government was anxious that future development on the islands should be steady and progressive. It would be unwise to flood the area with money and entice emigration to the South Atlantic island before there was an adequate opportunity for newcomers.

Mr Raison stressed the Government's determination to quickly create a development agency which would explore transport needs and the possibilities of deep water fishing as a money earner—possibly from Japanese fishermen.



Timothy Raison — deal
of thought

FACE TO FACE

(April
Edition)

'If the Falklands were handed back to Argentina, I would still feel that H's death had been worthwhile'

WITH SARA JONES

It's a year ago this month that the Falklands War began, and it was amid something approaching carnival spirit that we saw our fighting fleet set sail. But soon grim reality took over; many of our men were not to return.

Amongst those was Lieutenant-Colonel 'H' Jones of the 2nd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, who died in the battle for Darwin and Goose Green.

With pride, his 40-year-old widow, and sons David, 16, and Rupert, 13, went to Buckingham Palace in November to collect his posthumous VC. Now that the moments of sad glory are over Andrea Kon talks to Sara Jones about how she feels after almost a year alone.

AK: It's now a year since the Falklands conflict. Do you have a disappointing sense that we've already forgotten the courage shown, the sacrifices made?

SJ: Quite the opposite. It surprises me just how long interest in the

whole thing has gone on; for a lot of people who survived and came home, I think it has gone on almost too long. It's time to stop treating them as heroes.

AK: Why do you think the Falklands was such a 'popular' war, arousing so much interest?

SJ: Most British people thought we were right to go into the Falklands, having accepted that Argentina had invaded. I believe people felt that we had to stick up for ourselves; it gave them pride. I don't think the soldiers realised until they got back how much the country had been behind them, nor how ordinary people with no military connection felt it was their lads out there, fighting for what they believed in.

AK: In retrospect, though, was it worth fighting for?

SJ: Yes, I certainly think the principle was worth fighting for; the principle of the underdog being looked after.

AK: And dying for?

SJ: Sadly, I suppose if you're going

to put it on the line, the answer must be yes.

AK: Do you feel bitter towards the Argentinians in general?

SJ: No, not really. Most of the soldiers were only young boys and we know they had no guidance or leadership. I feel rather sorry for them. I can't say I'm very fond of Galtieri but you cannot blame an entire nation for the behaviour of its bad leaders. The people who really made me angry were the Anglo-Argentinians who hedged their bets because they were scared of losing a way of life.

AK: Would you feel that your husband had died utterly in vain if Britain were ever to hand the Falklands over to Argentina?

SJ: No. If there was eventually agreement round a table, then I would feel that 'H' had fought for a principle, died for a principle and that principle had in no way been tarnished. Argentina walked in as an aggressor and you can't let that sort of thing happen.

Of course, you cannot hand it to

the Argentinians on a plate – then it would all have been for nothing – and I can't believe that would ever happen. But, if the Falklands were handed to Argentina after democratic agreement, then the principle would have been fulfilled and I would feel that that in itself would have made 'H's' death worthwhile.

AK: When your husband died, you were propelled into the public eye in a way that Sergeant Ian McKay's widow wasn't. Why?

SJ: I suppose the first rush of public interest happened because my husband was the senior chap on the Falklands and, immediately he was killed, it appeared on the news, so everybody heard about him. I remember one of the newscasters asking me at the time if I thought my husband had been made too much of a hero. My answer was that it was the media that made him a hero, not me. He did no braver thing than Sergeant McKay. It was just that the media got hold of his name.





PHOTOGRAPH/JIM RICE

AK: But it seems that now, as a result of events, you have agreed to stand as a Conservative candidate at the next election. Would you have done so, had your husband not been killed in the Falklands?

SJ: I have yet to discover how this rumour started. I used to work in the House of Commons as a secretary to MP Philip Goodhart, and I went to the Conservative Party Conference on a personal invitation to hear the Defence debate. I think it all began because I was spotted by a gossip columnist who asked one of the MPs about it and he then made some comment that it would be nice to have me around. It all snowballed from there.

I wouldn't stand for Parliament for several reasons, not the least of which is that I simply don't have the background. And, at present, my first priority lies with my children. Being an MP is a full-time job demanding tremendous dedication and I feel that at the moment I

owe all my time and all my dedication to my family.

To stand as an MP at the moment would be quite wrong. To stand because of what my husband did would devalue both his name and mine – I wouldn't be standing in my own right. No one would ever have suggested that I did so before the Falklands happened. I'm a great believer in taking advantage of opportunities as they arise, but in this case, I would be cashing in on 'H's' name. Of course, if someone wanted me to do some work for them during an election campaign, that would be fun. But that is absolutely as far as it would go.

AK: You are obviously a very brave lady who cries her tears in private. Does it help you to talk about your husband or do you wish that everybody would just shut up and leave the subject alone now?

SJ: I like to be able to talk about him with the family. I think it's awfully silly when somebody dies

to pretend they never existed. You must talk about them. But, as far as the public image is concerned, I sometimes find it very difficult to associate the husband I knew with the public hero. The man you live with is not the man people are talking about.

I have been asked if I find it upsetting to see pictures of 'H' in newspapers – but I don't think of them as being of him. They're just pictures in the paper.

AK: Have your sons any ambitions to join the army? Will you discourage them in the light of your own experiences?

SJ: The eldest one definitely wants to go into the army. As the younger one is only 13, time alone will tell. My elder son's ambitions were formulated long before my husband was killed, so it's nothing to do with what's happened. I wouldn't dream of discouraging them if that's what they want to do. It's a fine life. I think it makes good men. They have noble values in the army – things that I believe in:

discipline and knowing the difference between right and wrong. It definitely breeds a nice person on the whole. If that's what my children want to do, it would be wrong to discourage them. They are just as likely to get run over crossing the road as to get killed on active service.

AK: Have you come across any resentment from people who believed the Falklands were not worth fighting for – or from those who felt they were not worth the £300 billion it cost the economy at a time when there were so many economic problems here?

SJ: I'm sure that there are such people around – more so now that it's behind us than there were at the time – but I certainly haven't met them.

I had two or three letters from real crackpots. These weren't people who just felt bitter and thought they could vent their anger by writing to me, but from real nutcases. I just tore them up and threw them in the bin. But then, perhaps those who disagreed with the principle of the Falklands wouldn't want to speak to me anyway.

AK: What is your attitude to the South Atlantic fund and the way it has been administered?

SJ: I think the big mistake has been that they have not told either those who so generously donated the money, nor those it is intended to benefit, just how they are going to use it; that's very bad. I think people have been so kind and generous giving money and it's wrong that they don't know what's going to happen to it.

The administrators have been very good in so far as anyone who has had a need has been given money. They've done it through the units of those involved. But you don't know what the injured are going to need in the future and they must have first priority.

Our lives have been blighted because we have lost a husband or a father or a son but we are still able to work and as widows we are very well looked after. For the wounded, whose lives have been blighted forever, it's an ongoing thing. Of course, not knowing the extent to which they're going to need money, I don't know how much will be left at the end. It could be that the interest will pay for all their needs. There's an enormous amount of money in the Fund.

I think that part of the problem is that no one realised just how much money was going to be donated. I'm surprised that the Fund hasn't been closed yet. I think that should happen next and then they can work from there.

I also think that at least once a month a press statement should▷



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FACE TO FACE

<I have been released detailing what was happening to the money. People's backs went up when they weren't kept informed. There was so much goodwill, and I think things have gone a little bit sour. I don't think it has been handled very cleverly at all.

Initially, we were all given £10,000 from the Fund, with £1,000 for each child. It has been rumoured that from now on it will be handled along the same lines as in Northern Ireland, on a basis of compensation related to expectation.

AK: Is there any advantage to you in your husband having died a hero?

SJ: Yes! Not so much because he's been called a hero, but I'd far rather that he died the way he did than that he had gone out one morning to work and been killed in a car crash. That seems such a needless, sad way to go.

At least he died for something important and certainly I believe that at the beginning of the Falklands affair, we needed a victory, to prove to the Argentinians that we could do it. Had we not had that victory at the beginning it might have taken a lot longer and there might have been a very different outcome. I believe that, but for Two Para, victory mightn't have come very easily. It probably saved a lot of lives.

AK: So you believe that Government policy was right all the way?

SJ: Not quite. I think the first mistake was to consider withdrawing the ice-freighter Endurance. That was bound to give the Argentinians the green light. With hindsight, there seem to have been a number of mistakes, but, with hindsight, there always are. I think our intelligence was bad and I could point out a lot of things wrong at Goose Green. They had no idea how many Argentinians were there. But I think our boys did their very best with all that they had to hand.

AK: When are you going to the Falklands and what do you think the future of those troubled islands will be?

SJ: I'm going out there with my sons during the Easter holidays, before the weather gets really bad. If we didn't go then, we would have to wait another year. I still follow the news fairly avidly, although when my husband was killed I switched off for a while. For me at that time, it simply wasn't happening.

I'm looking forward to meeting the Falklanders. From what I've heard and from the letters I've had from people there, the population sounds absolutely charming. I don't think they're a very extrovert people and I don't think they'll fall

over themselves with excitement when we arrive. But, I'm sure they're quietly grateful for what everybody did and I think they'll be glad to see us. They're probably finding it a little difficult having the army still there. I think the future of the Falklands very much depends on which Government gets into power next.

AK: Your personal experience of widowhood has been somewhat cushioned, has it not, by the back-up you have had from the army? How do you think you will cope when you move away and are on your own?

SJ: I don't think you ever lose the back-up you mention. People think that, if your husband is killed, immediately you cease to become part of the army, but that's not quite true. They are always there and you can always call on them if you have problems. You are still an 'army widow'; you still have that cushion, but hopefully, as time goes by, one will eventually need them less and less.

The army were very good to me. Our home was an officer's house, and usually, you are given six months to move in such circumstances, but although some girls moved very quickly, those of us who took slightly longer to find a home were in no way either pushed or harassed.

You have to pick up the pieces and start again. Of course, only the future will tell what will happen to us. I'm going to look for a job, something worthwhile to do. I believe something will turn up, but it's no good worrying too much about it. There will always be hurdles. When we're settled in the new house, I will give myself until the autumn to find a job. One step at a time. I think that's important for the children, too.

AK: Do you think you're ever really going to be able to enjoy your life again?

SJ: I've never lost the enjoyment of certain things. Some things are never dulled, not even by a shattering blow such as I've experienced. You're just left with a funny sort of feeling, wishing you could have shared your pleasure. Enjoyment is still there but it's always tinged with sadness and I think it always will be.

Please write and let us know which public figure – politician, captain of industry or leading light of media – you'd like to see interviewed in 'Face to Face', and what questions you'd like to ask. We'll do our best to feature your chosen subject in a future issue.

FALKLAND SHUTTLE FAILURE 'COST HAIG HIS JOB'

By DAVID SHEARS in Washington

MR ALEXANDER HAIG, the former American Secretary of State, said yesterday that his failure to negotiate a ceasefire in the Falklands conflict had been a major factor in his resignation.

Showing the combative trait which often put him at odds with the White House and other American Government agencies, Mr Haig blamed "predators" for his ouster.

In an interview with the *Boston Globe*, he said he had undertaken the Falklands mediation knowing it could be his undoing.

During the drawn-out negotiations "a little blood dropped from the veins for (my) predators to feast at," he said.

The former Allied Supreme Commander and White House Chief of Staff during the Watergate crisis is now writing a book, lecturing for large fees and serving on the board of MGM-United Artists, the film company.

He admitted that he had made some "terrible mistakes" as Secretary of State, but declined to discuss them.

Neutral role

"I clearly was very dissatisfied as Secretary of State for a host of reasons, and I think my departure, at least in the near term, has helped the situation rather than aggravated it," he freely conceded.

"I think it was the right decision for me. Although the timing was not of my choosing, the decision was."

For a month after the Argentine invasion of the Falklands, America adopted a neutral role and tried to mediate in the search for a peaceful settlement.

Mr Haig engaged in exhausting "shuttle diplomacy" between London and Buenos Aires. But on April 30 last year he declared that in view of Argentina's failure to accept a compromise, America must demonstrate that it could not

condone the "use of unlawful force" to resolve disputes.

Shortly afterwards, the simmering dispute between Mr Haig and Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, America's Ambassador to the United Nations, over Argentine policy burst into the open. Mrs Kirkpatrick was quoted as calling Mr Haig's support for Britain a display of "gang loyalty" and adding: "Why not just disband the State Department and have the British Foreign Office make our policy?"

Then on June 26 Mr Haig resigned, protesting in a letter to President Reagan that America's foreign policy was shifting away from "that careful course which we had laid out."

Another factor in his resignation also involved Britain; the controversy over natural gas pipeline equipment for Russia. Mr Haig had argued strongly within the Administration against Mr Reagan's ban on sales of American technology to firms involved in the pipeline project, but he was over-ruled.

When relations between Mr Haig and the White House National Security Staff, headed by Mr William Clark, reached breaking point, Mr Haig stepped down. He was replaced as Secretary of State by Mr George Shultz.

HURRICANE DEATH

One person died and two were seriously injured as Hurricane Oscar battered the Fiji Islands with winds of 140 m.p.h., official sources in Suva said yesterday.

—Reuter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Guardian 2/2/83

When honesty is the best policy when MPs are talking to the Falkland Islanders

Sir.—In his report (*Guardian*, November 26), Mr John Ezard no doubt faithfully records his own impressions of the impact made on islanders in Stanley by the recent visits of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees. But his implied accusation that the committees treated the islanders in a cavalier or condescending manner, or failed to establish a real dialogue with them about their future is, in my view, quite unfounded, at least as far as the Foreign Affairs Committee was concerned.

The Committee took two full days of evidence in Stanley town hall, from a total of 28 individual witnesses representing a wide cross-section of public opinion in the islands — not merely Government and Legislative Council representatives, but also many who had been defeated in the 1981 elections and others with radically different views from their present elected representatives. All this evidence was broadcast in full by the local

radio station, and it was clear that every adult whom we subsequently met was avidly following our proceedings and thinking hard about the implications of our questions and of the witnesses' replies.

We visited, in small groups, more than half the settlements in the Camp, and in many places talked informally to virtually the whole adult population. We also talked informally to many others in Stanley whenever we were not taking formal evidence. The suggestion that our social contacts were "largely with Government House," is nonsense.

There is no doubt that some islanders were surprised by the questions we asked and dismayed by their implications; but we also had the strong impression, as our visit progressed, that the islanders recognised the need to explore alternative ways of improving their economy (a major theme in our discussions not mentioned by Mr Ezard) and of providing

a secure political future for their country, and welcomed the dialogue initiated by our visit.

We may be criticised for having honestly spelt out to the islanders the problems which confront the British Parliament and the pressures on us to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the Islands' future. How much more would we have been deserving of criticism if we had merely spoken comforting words and disguised from our fellow-citizens in the Falklands the serious nature of the debate about their future which is being conducted in the United Kingdom? Would your newspaper, for instance, have welcomed this approach?

The purpose of our visit was to discover for ourselves, and report to the House of Commons, the real views of the islanders about their economic and political future and their likely reaction to any change which might be contemplated in the UK. In the process we managed, I believe, to establish a genuine dialogue with the islanders based on a more open and honest discussion of the problems confronting them and us. We very much hope that that dialogue will continue.

It may be sometimes painful for the islanders to participate in that dialogue: it would be much more painful if, without warning and without consultation, new policies were to be imposed on a population lulled into a false sense of security by politicians who were either afraid, or embarrassed, to speak honestly and frankly to them. (Sir) Anthony Kershaw, MP. (Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee), House of Commons.

Would-be-settlers queue to go to Falklands

THE GOVERNMENT has received a large number of applications from people seeking to settle in the Falkland Islands, the Foreign Office Minister, Mr Cranley Onslow, told MPs yesterday.

Detailed questionnaires had already been returned by more than 280 applicants for settlement and would be examined by the new Falk-

land Islands government once to be set up in London in the new year, he said in the Commons.

A Foreign Office spokesman said later that more than 2,000 applications had been sent in since the end of the conflict—enough to double the islands' population and more.

During debate on the Shackleton Report on the Falklands' economic prospects, Mr Onslow said the new office would have as a first priority the task of identifying suitable settlers from among the many who had applied.

Severe shortage of accommodation was now constraining immigration, he said, but added: "As new housing becomes available for occupation, it will be allocated by the Falkland Islands government according to the priorities it is drawing up."

For the Opposition, Mr Stanley Clinton Davis claimed that the Government had been found wanting in its re-

sponse to the Shackleton Report. He agreed that the islands badly needed skilled young people to settle there but the decision to shirk the main issue—the ownership of a massive part of the island by the Falklands Islands Company—would not encourage this.

There were Labour protests when Mr Onslow intervened to tell Mr Clinton Davis that part of the cost of reviving the Falklands economy would be met by the unallocated part of the Overseas Development Aid Fund. The protesters claimed that this contradicted previous assurances that other budgets would not be affected.



Mr Cranley Onslow -
"I've been offered
a job on Pebble.
The wife's down
there looking for
a house."

2/3/82
D.T.E.

ARGENTINE PLAN FOR 'INVASION'

By Our Buenos Aires
Correspondent

RELATIVES of Argentine
soldiers buried in the
Falklands hope to sail
there in a small vessel
within the next two months
—whether or not Britain
agrees.

The object is to honour their
dead, but first the organisers
—the "Centre of Volunteers
for the Fatherland" — want
"protection" from the United
Nations and the International
Red Cross.

A "small vessel" has been
lent by a private company.
More than 100 relatives have
applied, and many more
requests are expected.

TIME NOT RIGHT

Britain's view

OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT writes: Britain does not
consider the time "propitious"
for such a visit by Argentines,
a Foreign Office spokesman said
yesterday.

Arrangements between the two
Governments, and that cannot
happen until the Argentine
has resumed normal relations
with Britain, announced last
year, have ended.

The spokesman pointed out
that neither country has ratified
a protocol on war graves. He
added that the Geneva Con-
ventions would not prevent
negotiations "if circumstances
permitted."

The Centre of Volunteers for
the Fatherland, a Right-wing
nationalist group, says it has
asked the International Red
Cross to help, but in Geneva
yesterday the organisation said
it had not received any mes-
sage. It asked its Buenos Aires
office for information.

ARGENTINES WELCOME POLL DATE

By Our Buenos Aires
Correspondent

Argentine politicians wel-
comed yesterday the announce-
ment that elections will be held
on Oct. 30 and that the Govern-
ment will be turned over to
civilian authorities on Jan. 30.
but they said that the interval
between elections and hand-over
was too long.

The announced elections will
be the first in 10 years, follow-
ing nearly seven years of mili-
tary rule.

Politicians from both parties
also welcomed the announcement
failure to regulate polls.

GENERAL 2/3/83

F.T.

Falklands

Agency will plan growth

The Government is expected soon to set up a Falkland Islands Development Agency, as recommended by the Shackleton report, as a first step in planning the islands' development.

Announcing this yesterday, Overseas Development Minister, Timothy Raison, confirmed that £23m would be spent on improving the road between Stanley and the airport.

He denied any row over funding this and said the Ministry of Defence would provide most of the money. Improving other roads would await a decision on building a new airport.

Argentina poll

Argentina's political parties welcomed news of a general election on October 30, but said the military should hand over power faster. Page 4

Development agency for Falklands

By Bridget Bloom

THE CREATION of a Falkland Islands Development Agency is expected to be announced by the Government shortly, as a critical first step in drawing up development plans for the islands. Mr Timothy Raison, Overseas Development Minister, said in London yesterday.

A development agency was recommended by Lord Shackleton in his updated report on the economic future of the islands. Mr Raison confirmed yesterday that the agency's final form would be subject to approval by the Falkland Islands government.

Britain's promised £31m of development aid, to be spent over the next five to six years, will be channelled through the agency, Mr Raison said. Apart from improvements to sheep farming, it will look for development in other forms of agriculture, in fisheries and in sea and air inter-island transport.

Argentine poll date accepted

Times
2/3/83

From Andrew Thompson
Buenos Aires

Although the programme for Argentina's first elections for 10 years falls far short of the opposition parties' original demands, the five-party grouping known as "Multipartidaria" has reluctantly accepted the dates announced on Monday night by President Bignone.

The election will be held on October 30, and the military Government will step down three months later, when the new civil administration takes office.

In his speech, President Bignone had said that the next 11 months will be divided into three periods.

The first will be marked by the internal reorganization of the political parties, and the selection of candidates; the second will be the electoral campaign proper, leading up to the polls. The third will be the transition period leading to the installation of the civilian administration.

Senor Bignone said he hoped that the campaign would not be affected by the spirit of "all against all", but by an "all for all". He insisted that the military government would not intervene in the electoral campaign in any way. Finally, he ratified his confidence in his cabinet ministers, and attacked those who spread rumours to the political parties, had initially demanded elections in the middle of this year, with transfer of power on October 12.

While the President might have been prepared to come closer to these dates, the ruling military junta, to whom he is answerable, set its face against any concession. However, the politicians are keeping up the pressure on the Government.

Senor Antonio Cafiero, one of the presidential hopefuls from the Peronist party, said that "the electoral timetable announced by this military Government was expected, and it was about time the people were informed." Senor Cafiero argued for a shorter period between the elections and the handover of power. "They should give power back not more than 30 days after the elections," he said.

Senor Kaul Alfonsin, one of the main Radical party presidential frontrunners, agreed that there should be a quicker transfer after the polls. "Three months is too much for the task of transferring power".

Senor Rogelio Frigerio, on the other hand, spoke of the need to take remedial action in the country before the elections, a theme often emphasized by his grouping, the Movement for Integration and Development.

"Either we take drastic and coherent measures to face the crisis at its roots right now, knowing that the full task will only be fulfilled in the medium and long term by the constitutional government, or the road towards the rule of law and democracy will be further blocked," Senor Frigerio said.

The president also announced that he will travel to Delhi this week to attend the summit of non-aligned countries' heads of state. He said he would use the opportunity "to raise our voice of protests and demands over that theft of our sovereignty which has pained us for 150 years, and which is called Malvinas (Falklands), Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands".

Holding the Falklands

From Mr Anthony Meyer

Sir, Mr G. H. Gibson (February 24) seems not to understand that Britain's twentieth-century mini-crusade (as he tetchily describes it) was launched to save 1,800 of her people from being oppressed and, yes, ultimately deported from their homes.

Argentina's claim, whether valid or not, never entitled her to invade and violate the lives and farms of 1,800 British residents. Throughout our history we in Great Britain have primarily prized the freedom of man before the sovereignty of land: perhaps a lesson to be learned before long-term peace can come to that area.

Then *inglés* might well be the Argentinians' ultimate expression for self-determination.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY MEYER,

77 Kensington Church Street, W8,
February 24, 1983

TIMES 3-FEB '83

Yacht race man saved by satellite

By David Hewson

Richard McBride, the round-the-world yachtsman, was rescued by a Royal Navy helicopter at Porpoise Point, in East Falkland, yesterday after his 42ft schooner had run aground.

At the time, Mr McBride was about 60 miles off course and had radioed that he was aground on West Falkland. He was tracked down thanks to a device being used for the first time in a round-the-world race which enables race organizers to locate competitors to within half a mile anywhere in the world.

Mr McBride, aged 38, from Christchurch, New Zealand, was one of the 10 remaining competitors in the BOC Challenge single-handed race, which began with 17 vessels in Newport, Rhode Island, on August 28 of last year. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said that the yachtsman was safe and well but it was not known whether he would be able to rejoin the race.

Two Royal Navy warships off the Falklands had been warned that Mr McBride's vessel, City of Dunedin, would be in the vicinity en route for Rio de Janeiro. Both were alerted when Mr McBride sent out a radio message saying that he was aground.

But the City of Dunedin's correct position was only discovered through the use of the Argos location system which has been installed in all the competing yachts. The device, which resembles a small flying saucer, gives no information to the yachtsman, but through a weather satellite network run by the French Space Agency and an American weather agency, keeps a 24-hour track of every competitor's position.

Mr McBride alerted the organizers when he pressed a "panic button" on his Argos set, which set off an emergency alert in the Argos headquarters in Toulouse. His exact position was then passed to the Royal Navy which dispatched a helicopter at daybreak yesterday to the vessel.

At the time, Mr McBride was lying seventh in the race. The leader, Philippe Jeantot, a Frenchman in *Credit Agricole*, is expected in Rio at the end of the third stage by the weekend.

TIMES 2 MARCH 83

Travels with mules

From Mr Francis L. Galliano

Sir, In reply to Mrs Travis's letter, "Footslogging in the Falklands" (February 23) mules were used as recently as 1980 in an Army-backed adventure training expedition across Spain.

I led expedition "Spanish steps" across Andalucia from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic coast. With ten men from the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, a veterinary assistant and farrier from the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and two Spanish muleteers, we followed the old pack mule trails on foot. Six mules were used to carry the expedition's equipment, but one mule's entire load consisted of grain for the other animals; this in spite of ample "mule fuel" at the height of a Spanish Spring. Due to RAF weight restrictions we could not take army issue pack saddles and had to rely on

the blankets, canvas covers and ropes provided by the muleteers.

The fact remains that mules are very slow. One animal in five is high redundant. And in a modern war their vulnerability to nuclear or chemical attack should make one consider if mules could ever again be part of the British Army.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant.

F. L. GALLIANO,
42 Leythe Road, W3.
February 24.

From Mr R. Jeremy Teare

Sir, Perhaps the answer to the question posed by Mrs Travis (February 23), "Why has the British Army no mules?", is that the British Army has an over-abundance of asses - but no horses!

Yours faithfully,

R. JEREMY TEARE,
34 Greyhound Hill,
Hendon, NW4.

Miserable islands

From Mr John Brady

Sir, A 150th anniversary of no little significance falls due today which some of your readers may have overlooked. I am referring to Charles Darwin's first landfall on the Falkland Islands during his celebrated voyage round the world.

I quote from my copy of the fourth edition of his *Journal of Researches* (1889):

On March 1, 1833 . . . the Beagle anchored in Berkeley Sound, in East Falkland Island . . . After the possession of these miserable islands had been contested by France, Spain, and England, they were left uninhabited. The Government of Buenos Ayres then sold them to a private individual, but likewise used them, as old Spain had done before, for a penal settlement. England claimed her right and seized them. The Englishman who was left in charge of the flag was consequently murdered. A British officer was next sent, unsupported by any power: and when we arrived, we found him in charge of a population, of which rather more than half were runaway rebels and murderers.

The theatre is worthy of the scenes acted upon it. An undulating land, with a desolate and wretched aspect, is everywhere covered by a peaty soil and

wiry grass, of one monotonous brown colour. Here and there a peak or ridge of grey quartz rock breaks through the smooth surface. Everyone . . . of the climate of these regions . . . compared to that which is . . . at the height of between one and two thousand feet on the mountains of North Wales: having however less sunshine and less frost, but more wind and rain (p 136).

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRADY,
8 Hartington Court,
Lansdowne Way, SW8.
February 25.

Wages of virtue

From the Reverend D. L. Bartles-Smith

Sir, *Match of the Day* is watched by only 6,250,000 people. *Songs of Praise* is watched by 10 million. Football has been offered £5,300,000 by the television companies. Does this not mean the churches should be offered £7m?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS BARTLES-SMITH,
St Luke's Vicarage,
192 Ramsden Road, SW12.
February 25.

11/3/83

Better combat clothes likely to be issued after Falklands misery

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Soldiers and Royal Marines are likely to be issued with greatly improved combat clothing arising at least partly from lessons learnt in the course of the Falklands campaign.

In some cases, items of clothing and equipment have been or are being redesigned; in others, specialist clothing that

had been reserved for troops serving in Arctic conditions may be issued in future to forces serving in normal, temperate climates.

The need for some of the new clothing, notably socks and combat gloves, emerged in the Falklands. The need for other improvements, however, had

been recognized perviously, but had been delayed by a period of severe financial restraint affecting the Ministry of Defence 1980 and 1981.

The improved equipment has still be approved officially, but the experience gained during the Falklands campaign, and the fact that the financial position is now much more relaxed - the Ministry of Defence procurement budget this year is underspent - has given great impetus to the programme.

If parts of the programme are not implemented it will more likely be for technical rather than for financial reasons.

During the Falklands campaign the Royal Marines and parachutists who marched from San Carlos to Port Stanley suffered great hardships.

That was partly because of deficiencies in equipment, notably the boots and socks, but also because the lack of road transport meant that the men had to carry such heavy loads of weapons, ammunition, and other equipment that they had to leave behind some of their personal clothing and gear.

One of the problems of the improvements, if they are fully implemented, is that they will increase to some extent the weight and volume of the kit to be carried.

More may get Arctic gear

Among the articles of clothing and equipment that are likely to be improved are:

Sleeping bag: A design is being considered that would better retain its thermal qualities after repeated washings and after exceptionally hard use.

Sleeping mat: A mat may be introduced to provide an extra layer of insulation between the ground and the sleeping bag.

Thermal underwear: Arctic underwear is being considered for much wider distribution throughout most of the army.

Combat gloves: A glove is being sought that will withstand wet conditions without becoming soggy and cold.

Parkas: Arctic parkas and trouser liners may be more widely issued.

Waterproof clothing: Improved waterproof clothing, which will in particular withstand the effects of driving wind, are being developed.

Packs: Research is taking place to produce improved webbing and equipment for carrying the soldier's kit.

Boots: As reported on December 17, a calf-high boot, that has been under development for some years, is being issued.

Socks: An improved sock with a towlette toe is to be introduced to reduce the incidence of trench foot. Trench foot caused great difficulties during the Falklands campaign.

Combat kit

British soldiers are likely to be issued with greatly improved combat clothing partly because of the lessons learnt during the Falkland Islands conflict. Page 3

2 MARCH 1983

Telegraph
2/3/83.

ARGENTINE PLAN FOR 'INVASION'

By Our Buenos Aires
Correspondent

RELATIVES of Argentine soldiers buried in the Falklands hope to sail there in a small vessel within the next two months—whether or not Britain agrees.

The object is to honour the dead, but first the organisers—the "Centre of Volunteer for the Fatherland"—want "protection" from the United Nations and the International Red Cross.

A "small vessel" has been lent by a private company. More than 100 relatives have applied, and many more requests are expected.

Senor Osvaldo Destesanis, the Centre's president, said yesterday that once the Argentine ship obtained permission to sail under the International Red Cross flag, it would set out as soon as possible, even if the British Government did not grant permission for it to go near the Falklands.

"If once we are there the British refuse to let the relatives of dead Argentine soldiers disembark, this will result in a great loss of international prestige for the British Government," he added.

TIME NOT RIGHT

Britain's view

OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT writes: Britain does not consider the time "propitious" for such a visit by Argentines, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

Arrangements would have to be negotiated between the two Governments, and that cannot happen until the Argentines have resumed normal relations and clearly announced hostilities have ended.

The spokesman pointed out that neither country has ratified a protocol to the Geneva Convention on war graves. He added that would not prevent negotiations "if circumstances permitted."

ARGENTINES WELCOME POLL DATE

By Our Buenos Aires
Correspondent

Argentine politicians welcomed yesterday the announcement that elections will be held on Oct. 30 and that the Government will be turned over to civilian authorities on Jan. 30, but they said that the interval between elections and hand-over was too long.

The announced elections will be the first in 10 years, following nearly seven years of military rule.

Politicians from all parties also condemned Presidential failure to announce an electoral law to regulate polls.

1 MARCH 1983

DAILY TELEGRAPH

replace an ...
leaving to edit a rural affairs
magazine.

FERRY RETURNS

The Sealink ferry St Edmund arrived back at Wallsend, Tyneside, yesterday from the Falklands after a 10-month stint as a troopship. The vessel, which is to be bought by the Ministry of Defence, will undergo extensive repairs.

MULES RULED OUT

By Our Political Correspondent

Mules have been considered as a substitute for helicopters in transporting supplies to the Falklands, but it seems unlikely that they will be able to withstand the climate. Mr Wiggin, Defence Under Secretary said in a Commons written answer yesterday.

