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## Falklands War Diary My own view from HMS Yarmouth 2nd April to 28th July 1982

(por Peter J. Green)

" Rex et jura nostra "  
Our King and Laws

What follows are extracts taken from the diary I started whilst onboard HMS Yarmouth in Gibraltar when we first heard the Falkland Islands had been invaded. It contains records made at the time, my own notes, notes given to me by various members of the ship's company, newspaper reports, memorabilia and personal photographs of those one hundred and nineteen days.

Over time many of the photographs, unlike the memories, have faded.

For those of you not familiar with the lingo I have provided a short [Glossary](#).

(El glosario, colocado separado en el original, aquí ha sido agregado al final del relato)

### APRIL 1982

**2nd April** HMS Yarmouth is in Gibraltar when we are told The Falkland Islands has been invaded.

**3rd & 4th April:** Remain alongside in Gibraltar

**5th April:** YARMOUTH and BROADSWORD sail from Gib on our way to the Far East.

**5th April:** Both ships are ordered to return to Gib. We arrive at 0300 next morning (6th April).

**6th, 7th and 8th April** Alongside - replenishing ship with war stores, extra food, ammo; also a medical officer plus extra medical stores.

**9th April:** Sail for Ascension Island with BROADSWORD.

**10th April:** Going South.

**11th April:** RAS with RFA OLMEDA.

**12th and 13th April:** Going South.



**14th April:** We do our first 24 hours at action stations which goes very well. We are also over flown by a Bear 'D'.

**15th April:** At sea nearing the Ascension Island

**16th April:** Arrive Ascension Island, join up with HMS HERMES. Other ships at Ascension INVINCIBLE, ALACRITY and OLMEDA. Later in the day SIR TRISTRAM arrives from the West Indies, so starts the first of the vertreps. The end of a very hectic day and as night is drawing on Sam Mills, George Cable and myself go away in the ship's Gemini to ditch the gash - this was good fun until a large set of teeth came up along side, known to one and all as a Nobby Clark (Shark). This was also the last night we would be at anchor for quite some time.



**17th April:** There is a submarine alarm - all ships are told to sail at once. The submarine is thought to be a Soviet Victor class. This is the last time we see land until 1st May the East



**Above: HMS HERMES**



**Right: SIR TRISTRAM vertreping with two Sea Kings**



**Left: HERMES and ALACRITY who are anchored astern of us, our last night at anchor**

Falklands: We all close round HERMES and INVINCIBLE to form an A/S screen. All is well; nothing happens.

**18th April:** At sea going South, PWO 'A' 'U' and I give the first of our talks on the Argentine forces; we will give three of these over the next two days.

**19th April:** We do a RAS (L) with OLMEDA and INVINCIBLE.



**20th April:** All day spent doing exercises

**21st April:** Once again RAS (L) with OLMEDA.

**22nd April:** A day of exercises.

**23rd April:**

**2200** One Sea King goes into the sea, we spend all night looking for wreckage and the crewman. All we find is one wheel and some bits and pieces. The wind is quite strong - about force 6 or 7. L/S Quate is the coxswain of the sea boat.

**24th April:**

**0900** We are ordered to give up the search for the missing crewmen - this is our first human loss of the war. During the afternoon we RAS (L) with OLMEDA - it is very rough. L/S Quate, A/B's Williams, Cable and seaman Seaman and I are on the FX when an extra large wave comes inboard some of us get washed outboard. Our safety lines save us - we are cold and wet but OK.

**25th April:** We still steam South and hear that some helicopters have attacked the Submarine SANTA FE at South Georgia. A Task Force of ANTRIM, PLYMOUTH, BRILLIANT, ENDURANCE and TIDESPRING.



**LEFT:** We are bored so the SCR crew make a horse for a mascot. This requires 1 off SCR stool, 2 off gash bags, 18 off 177 paper roll tins, 1 off loo brush, 1 off piece of curtain from the wardroom, 1 off hat from Southend-on-Sea, a few silly sailors and 3 spare hours.

Later that day we learn South George is back in British hands after the landing of 1400 troops.



**Above:** ANTRIM, PLYMOUTH and BRILLIANT attacking South Georgia

**26th - 27th - 28th - and 29th April:** We steam South with RESOURCE and OLMEDA and run round them like a good sheep dog.

**30th April:** RAS Diso, Avcat from OLMEDA, RAS stores from RESOURCE. It takes 5½ hours - 2000 to 0130.

Ships have now joined up to make one Task Group. HERMES, INVINCIBLE, GLAMORGAN, SHEFFIELD, GLASGOW, COVENTRY, ARGONAUT, BROADSWORD, YARMOUTH, ARROW ALACRITY, APPLELEAF, OLMEDA, RESOURCE, ANTRIM, PLYMOUTH, ENDURANCE, BRILLIANT and TIDESPRING (a bit like Spring Train 82).

## **MAY 1982**

### **1st May**

**0700-0900** Vulcans bomb Stanley airport.

**1040** Action stations

**1043** 2 Mirage 230° - 95 miles

**1044** launched 2 SHAR

**1057** CAP

**1106** Air Yellow

**1135** Exocet released 260° - 100 miles

**1142** The Exocet reaches its maximum range without doing any damage to us

**1216** Air yellow

**1300** 270° closing fast enemy

**1304** Mix up - friendly helicopters

**1308** Air yellow

**1325** Super Entendards 245° - 180 miles outward bound

**1410** Air red; during this time YARMOUTH and BRILLIANT are to the North of East Falkland doing an ASW whilst ARROW, ALACRITY and GLAMORGAN are to the South of the Islands doing an NGS.

**1412** 235° - 130 miles

**1425** Air yellow

**1500** Air red 200° - 200 miles

**1543** Splashed one aircraft, two dropped their bombs and scattered

**1557** 245° - 100 miles

**1612** 240° - 26 miles

**1613** Airborne engagement

**1739** 275° - 100 miles

**1811** Action mortar

**1820** Bearing 188° torpedo HE

**1832** Mortar fired

**1845** Mortar fired

**1847** Mortar fired

**1915** Periscope sighted

**1940** One Mirage ditches

**1953** 150° - 9 miles patrol boats

**1956** Surface red

**2008** 3 Canberras in the area

**2011** Depth charges dropped

**2100** Action mortar

**2123** Mortar fired

**2123** Air yellow

**2153** Fall out - our first day at war.

YARMOUTH fired 14 mortar bombs

ARROW has small holes in funnel and upper-works. One man on the Sea Cat system was hit

ALACRITY small holes in upper-works

GLAMORGAN damage by starboard Sea Cat, shot down one Canberra with the Sea Slug

Helos dropped 8 torpedoes, 13 Mk II depth charges

801 squadron - 1 Mirage Flight Lieutenant Barton brings down Lieutenant Peronu of Grupo 8 with a sidewinder

1613 Mirage shot down by Lieutenant Thomas and kills Captain Guerua

1641 Flight Lieutenant Penfold shoots down a Dagger of Grupo 6 and kills Lieutenant Ardilis

1645 Lieutenant Curtis of 801 squadron shoots down a Canberra and kills Lieutenant Gonzales (pilot) and Lieutenant Ibañez

### **2nd May**

We all stay to the East of the Islands

**1130** Action stations

**1130** Air red

**1134** Air yellow

**1139** Fallout

RAS aft using the stump mast with RESOURCE. We fire a further 10 mortar bombs

801 squadron brings down a Mirage

HMSM CONQUEROR sinks the cruiser GERERAL BELGRANO

### **3rd May**



A quiet day for us in the TEZ we hear that the cruiser GENERAL BELGRANO has been sunk by HMSM CONQUEROR.

Lynx helos have sunk one gunboat and damaged another with Sea Skua missiles, the ship sunk was the COMODORO SOMELLERU and ALFEREZ SOBRAL was damaged.

The lynx helicopters used in this attack were from COVENTRY and GLASGOW. The kill was given to Lieutenant Commander Alan Rich

A Macchi 339 of the 1st Naval Attack Squadron was destroyed in an operational accident and killed Lieutenant Benitez

### **General Belgrano sinking**

### **4th May**

**1415** Action stations

**1416** Aircraft 270° - 30 miles

**1420** 200° - 20 miles

**1421** 200° - 18 miles

**1421** SHAR firing missiles

**1426** SHEFFIELD hit by possible Exocet

**1427** Air red

**1428** Told by HERMES to join SHEFFIELD we ring on full ahead. ARROW has been told to join

**1431** SHEFFIELD definitely hit by an Exocet

**1432** De-arming 456 (our Wasp helicopter)

**1435** Surface contact red 155

**1437** Zippo 1 flash on the horizon

**1437** Fired chaff Delta

**1438** From GLAMORGAN 242° missile (Exocet)

**1438** Action mortar





**1440** from GLAMORGAN 120° hostile  
**1441** Exocet passed over YARMOUTH  
**1443** Flash ½ a mile astern of ALACRITY  
**1443** Flash on the horizon  
**1444** Hard right fired chaff  
**1449** 2 contacts 240° - 30 miles  
**1452** Submarine sighted 245° from GLASGOW on surface  
**1505** 456 to SHEFFIELD  
**1509** SHEFFIELD hit amidships starboard side - considerable damaged  
**1510** Burgler 240° , CAP from INVINCIBLE  
**1515** 456 from SHEFFIELD with casualty  
**1517** Yarmouth and ARROW assisting SHEFFIELD  
**1527** Torpedo 050° from ARROW  
**1527** Action mortar  
**1528** Sonar contact  
**1529** Torpedo 060° from ARROW  
**1530** Mortar fired  
**1531** Request air assets am under torpedo attack  
**1531** Torpedo, mortar fired  
**1531** Riser 030°  
**1532** Torpedo 060° mortar fired  
**1539** Smoke on the horizon green 30  
**1549** Torpedo mortar fired  
**1550** Sea king closing torpedo launch area  
**1550** Torpedo 090° from ARROW mortar fired  
**1554** Torpedo 200° from Arrow  
**1554** Torpedo 320°  
**1600** Mortar fired  
**1600** Stream unifoxer  
**1601** Attacker contact green 65  
**1601** Action mortar  
**1602** Due to the amount of mortar bombs fired we come down to firing only one bomb at a time.  
**1602** Cease fire mortar (have fired 24 bombs)  
**1605** Torpedo 310° from ARROW  
**1611** Sonar contact 299° - 1000x from ARROW possible submarine  
**1612** Torpedo green 50  
**1613** Torpedo 010° from ARROW  
**1621** Torpedo 180° from ARROW  
**1642** Air yellow  
**1645** Torpedo 030°  
**1646** No HE on 030°  
**1726** Lines passed to SHEFFIELD  
**1735** Fire in SHEFFIELD getting out of hand  
**1735** HE contact 210°  
**1742** Surface contact red 20  
**1745** SHEFFIELD abandoning ship lines slipped  
**1747** Prepare to receive SHEFFIELD's ships company by helo  
**1747** We check our ship's side as it is getting very warm  
**1749** Submarine contact 295° - 9 miles HELO  
**1800** 456 Vetac submarine 240° - 4000x  
**1806** 456 requires 2 more Mk 46 torpedoes  
**1807** Torpedo 090° coming towards us - seen by 456  
**1809** Mortar fired  
**1810** Torpedo from ARROW  
**1815** Stop to pick up survivors, 6 in number  
**1822** Survivors picked up  
**1825** I/C intends ARROW to sink SHEFFIELD by gun fire. YARMOUTH to provide ASW cover  
**1844** Aircraft 298° - 100 miles (4)  
**1845** Air red  
**1901** Air yellow  
**2020** ARROW and YARMOUTH have received 225 survivors from SHEFFIELD  
**2017** SHEFFIELD still floating, fire seems to be abating  
**2141** Fall out





**Above: HMS SHEFFIELD on fire - a very sad sight**

Later that evening RAS (L)

Total 25 mortar bombs fired, 4 Mk 11 depth charges and 5 Mk 44/46 torpedoes used

**5th May:** We spend a quite day in the TEZ - we are still all shocked by what we saw yesterday.

**6th May**

- 1800 Action stations
- 1800 Air red
- 1800 Aircraft 60 miles from COVENTRY (possibly 3)
- 1802 Now 295° - 120 miles (possibly 5)
- 1803 Two different threats
- 1818 Air yellow
- 1818 Air red
- 1831 Air yellow
- 1848 Fall out from action stations

In the morning we lose two Harriers due to poor weather conditions; both from 801 squadron - Lieutenant Commander Eyton-Jones and Lieutenant Curtis.

**7th May:**

- 1808 Action stations
- 1809 Threat 310° - 60 miles (possibly 3)
- 1809 Air red
- 1810 300° - 45 miles
- 1813 Air raid gone low possibly A4's
- 1817 Mirage 3 - 270°
- 1822 Possible Entendards 310° - 40 miles
- 1824 4.5 fired
- 1826 ARROW over-flown
- 1826 SHAR launched from INVINCIBLE
- 1826 Possible A4's 240°
- 1827 Fired chaff "C" 270° India band
- 1829 Possible threat 270° - 50 miles and 200° - 30 miles
- 1835 Fired chaff "C" 170° India band
- 1850 Air yellow
- 1855 Air red Zippo 4
- 1856 Problem with weapon arcs, chaff "C" 240° India band
- 1857 4.5 fired
- 1901 Air yellow
- 1921 Fall out



Amphibious Group leaves Ascension in the evening FEARLESS, INTREPID, CANBERRA, NORLAND and ALANTIC CONVEYOR

**8th May**

1054 Action stations  
1055 Surface contact GLASGOW engaging with gun  
1057 GLASGOW fired Sea Dart  
1104 GLAMORGAN 992 out of action returning to the main body  
1106 GLASGOW fired chaff  
1109 Unknown target 267° - 11 miles  
1111 Weapons tight sea harriers  
1114 Contacts 250° - 52 miles speed slow  
1121 Contacts spurious  
1121 Fall out  
1527 Action Stations  
1530 Threat turning southwards 255° - 112 miles (CAP station 10)  
1534 Threat 250° possible C 130  
1536 Hostile 240° 100 miles  
1609 Air yellow  
1611 Continue with RAS  
1850 Action stations, 3 contacts over the Islands 305° - 150 miles  
1854 Main body under surveillance  
1857 Contacts 260° - 90 miles  
1858 Threat Air 1, Sub-surface 2 and surface 3, raid 240° - 60 miles tracking 330°  
1859 Mirage 280°  
1901 Losing UHF  
1904 Possible 250° - 50 miles  
1906 Sea Cat red 130 an aircraft (Sea King)  
1917 Air yellow  
2323 Action stations  
2332 After damage control party provide 7 or 8 hands on QD  
2344 Nobody on SHEFFIELD - boarding party to flight deck, CPO Green I/C - L/S Quate - A/B Biolettie - Sea Winn - L Stw Hubbard - L Air Galager - Sea Evans - RO Hall - Mne Arnold and Mr Hiley from HERMES  
2350 We will come along side SHEFFIELD's port side, boarding party will board. Swell is bigger than first thought  
2352 Both engines stopped, 60 revs on  
2354 Switched off starboard 3 inch

**Jobs given to ships for the 8th and 9th**

BROADSWORD into Falkland Islands

ALACRITY Port Stanley NGS

YARMOUTH tow SHEFFIELD

**9th May**





**Above: Starboard side of HMS SHEFFIELD showing the hole made by the Exocet**

- 0045** As YARMOUTH goes astern she pushes the starboard bulkhead of the Ops room in
- 0105** Tow commenced, we will have no one on board SHEFFIELD
- 0108** Seaspray radar 050° faint
- 0110** No restrictions on transfer of personal from SHEFFIELD by helo
- 0115** Faint active transmission 350°
- 0119** Sea King closing from 050°
- 0125** Sea calling but radio silence being kept
- 0135** Helo transfer will be on FX, surface contact reported by sea king 350° - 35 miles
- 0153** Tow commences
- 0208** HE contact closing fast 275°
- 0211** 456 to investigate
- 0242** Fall out
- 0330** Transfer of personal completed 456 alert 8
- 1029** Action stations
- 1030** Air threat 200° - 80 miles
- 1036** Assessed aircraft have turned away 120 miles
- 1040** Air yellow
- 1050** Fall out

We stay in radio silence all day and only passive sonar; we feel very naked by ourselves with just a dead ship in tow behind us.

- 1308** Action stations - possible attack on main body



**Above: HMS SHEFFIELD under tow by HMS YARMOUTH**

- 1309 C130
- 1310 COVENTRY away boarding suspect (now known to be the trawler NARWAL)
- 1511 2 aircraft 275° - 60 miles COVENTRY will take first target
- 1513 C 130 - 255° outbound
- 1517 COVENTRY has birds firm on the above, birds away
- 1518 COVENTRY birds away second target
- 1519 Threat 285° - 35 miles tracking 060
- 1520 COVENTRY third birds away
- 1524 Possible SHAR 285° - 160 miles closing assessed COVENTRY's birds missed
- 1528 Incoming 290° - 130 miles
- 1530 Incoming 290° - 75 miles skytrain C 130
- 1537 Incoming 300° - 60 miles strength 4
- 1540 Incoming 320° - 45 miles possible turning West
- 1543 Threat opening 310° - 60 miles
- 1546 All other hostile contacts outside 150 miles
- 1551 COVENTRY Fired birds at maximum range
- 1551 Air yellow
- 1557 Fall out
- 1715 Action stations
- 1717 Threat 290° - 190 miles from COVENTRY 110 miles from us
- 1720 Two CAP stations are out at 100 miles from INVINCIBLE in anticipation of raid
- 1724 Contacts gone low
- 1732 COVENTRY assessed raid over Stanley
- 1740 COVENTRY 280° - 140 miles from us opening
- 1741 Contacts still heading West 180 miles
- 1744 Contacts 200 miles opening
- 1751 COVENTRY lost contact 270° - 330 miles
- 1755 Contact 230° - 60 miles
- 1759 Friendly dippers returning from NARWHAL
- 1809 Air yellow
- 1814 Fall out

**1840** Action stations  
**1845** 290° closing fast strength 4 110 miles  
**1848** 270° - 140 miles turning outwards  
**1850** 180 miles opening fast  
**1852** Air yellow  
**1851** State 1  
**1855** Air red  
**1859** Pair 280°, other pair 260° estimated  
**1900** 1 hostile 8 miles from COVENTRY flying overland Puma helo  
**1902** COVENTRY birds away at hostile (Puma splashed)  
**1903** From flags to COVENTRY BZ  
**1906** COVENTRY another slow moving contact 040° - 10 miles  
**1906** Air yellow  
**1912** Fall out

**10th May**

**0530** SHEFFIELD starts to list badly  
**0710** SHEFFIELD rolls over to starboard and starts to sink. L/S Walker and I slip her - we have had her in tow for 29 hours. Also on the QD are Commander Morton (Captain) Lieutenant Commander Plummer (1st Lieutenant) CPO Larmor, LOEM Wrightson, LOEM Miller, L/S Mudd - and the saddest sight of all is Captain Salt from HMS SHEFFIELD watching his ship go to her final resting place deep beneath the waves. We all have tears in our eyes.

Later in the day ALACRITY sinks the 3,900 ton ISLA de los ESTADOS

Tanker RIO CARCARANIA sinks ? (Enemy transport ship)

BRISTOL group sails the UK-EXETER-CARDIFF-MINERVA-ANDROMEDA-ANTELOPE-ARDENT-AVENGER and BLUE RANGER

**11th May:** A quite day in the TEZ.  
 UGANDA joins the force

**12th May:**

**1709** Action stations  
**1712** Air red  
**1715** From GLASGOW birds fired  
**1716** GLASGOW hit. 3 aircraft attack BRILLIANT and GLASGOW. BRILLIANT splashed 2x A4's with Sea Wolf, third aircraft hit the water, a fourth aircraft is hit by own AA fire, 1 Skyhawk flown by Lieutenant Gavazzi from Grupo 5 is killed, the other pilots were Lieutenant Bustos, Lieutenant Nivoli and Lieutenant Ibarlucea all were killed and all were from Grupo 5.  
 The pilot who hit GLASGOW Lieutenant Fausto Gavazzi.  
**1723** Two CAP to BRILLIANT for her to control  
**1735** Possible dipper ditched  
**1740** Survivors sighted in the water 16 miles from YARMOUTH, 4 in number  
**1744** All personal sighted and being picked up  
**1746** Stand down  
**1837** Action stations  
**1839** Threat 270° - 200 miles from GLASGOW  
**1842** HERMES launches CAP  
**1846** Two CAPs returning 250°  
**1851** Raid opening to the West  
**1853** Weapons tight  
**1915** Air yellow  
**1922** Fall out

BRITISH ESK arrives

**13th May**  
 Quite day in the TEZ

**14th May**  
 BRITISH ESK leaves with SHEFFIELD survivors



**15th May**

Attacks on Pebble Island, SAS using 846 sea king (3), with GLAMORGAN for NGS.  
Destroyed 6 Puccaras Grupo 3  
4 Turbo Mentors 4th Naval Attack Squadron  
1 Skyvan Coast Guard

**16th May**

Quite day in the TEZ

800 Squadron attacks the naval transport BUEN SUCESO, the BUEN SUCESO was still in Fox Bay at the surrender.

RIO CARCARANA sunk off Port Stanley by ANTELOPE flight (Sea Skua) this was a tanker.

VALIANT arrived on station.

**17th May**

1057 Action stations possible air raid two low bogeys 250 miles closing from the West

1101 Air yellow

1114 Fall out

1124 Action stations possible air raid from the West

1126 Handbrake racket - CAP investigating zippo 4 - 240° air red chaff "C" India band 305°

1127 Fired chaff

1132 Two possible contacts 100 miles ahead of CAP

1146 Air yellow CAP found nothing

1152 Fall out

**18th May**

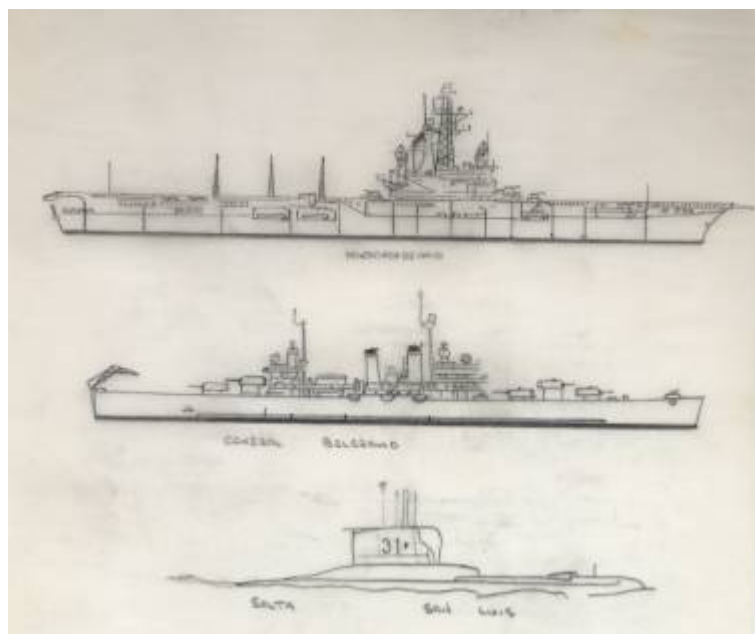
1033 Action stations

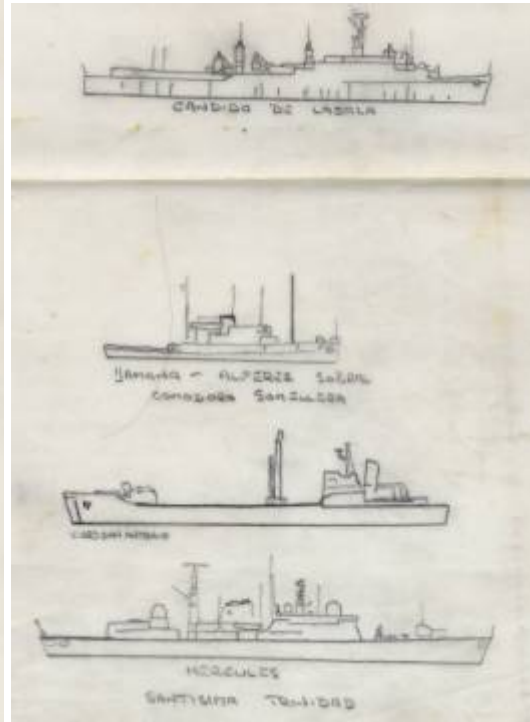
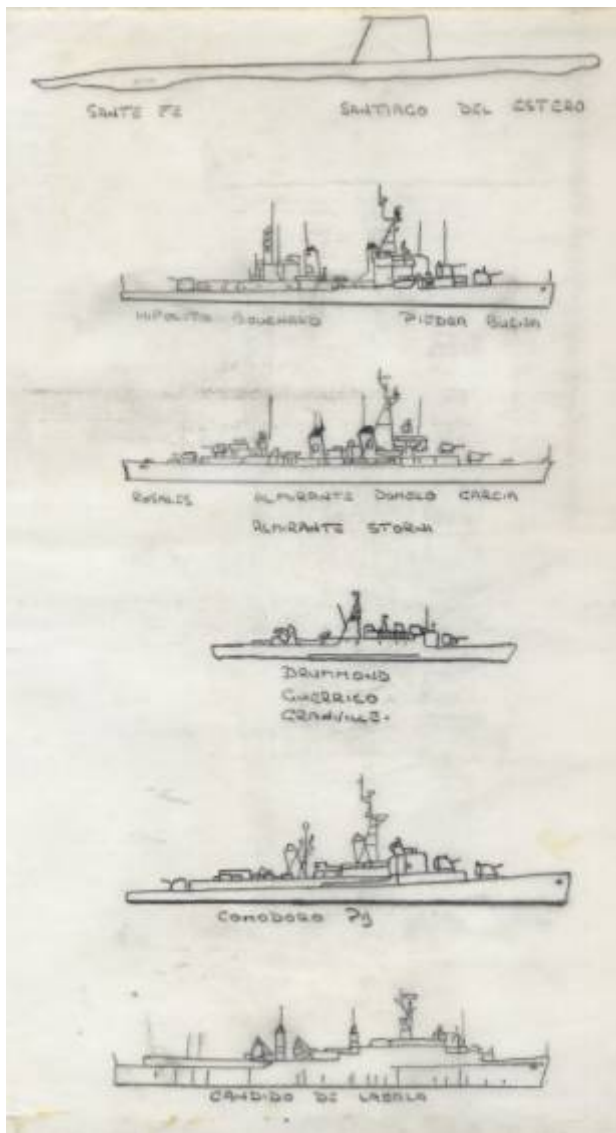
1034 Air red

1046 Air yellow

1051 Fall out

ATLANTIC CONVEYOR arrives plus CANBERRA and the amphibious force

**Below: Sketches of ships of the Argentine Navy**



ATLANTIC CONVEYOR gives 809 Squadron 4 SHAR's to HERMES and 6 GR 3's

INVINCIBLE gets 4 SHAR's

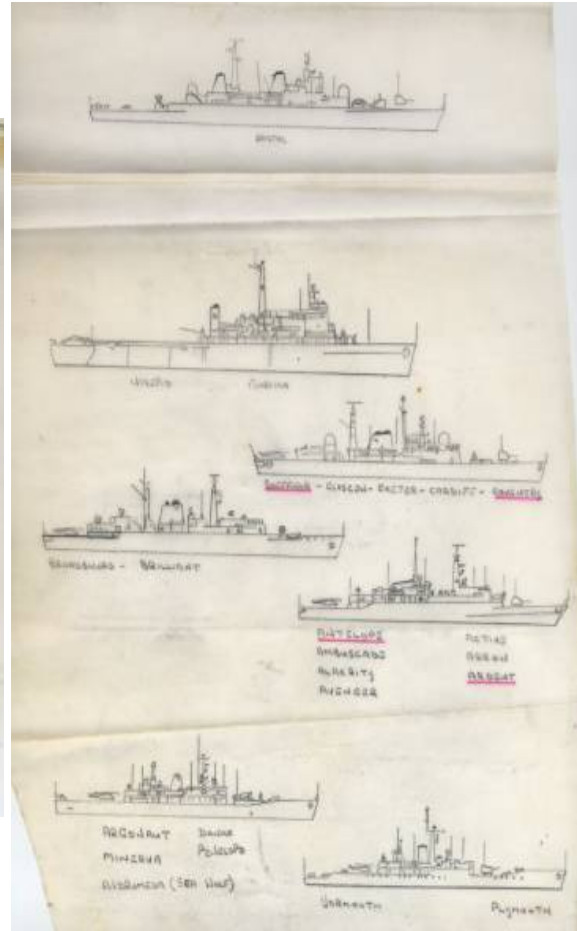
HERMES gives 4x sea king 5's to FORT AUSTIN 826 Squadron

**19th May**

Out to the East of the TEZ getting ready for Friday 21st

BIRMINGHAM group sail UK, SOUTHAMPTON-DIOMEDE-DANAE-BACCHANTE-LOWESTOFT-BRECON and LEDBURY

**Royal Navy's ships of the Task Force**



**20th May**

From dawn we start getting into our positions in the screen ready to take the amphibious force into San Carlos, course West, speed 11 knots, spacing between ships 1000 yards.

			ANTRIM		
		PLYMOUTH	ARDENT	YARMOUTH	
	NORLAND	SIR PERCIVAL		SIR LANCELOT	STROMNESS
EUROPIC FERRY		SIR GERAINT		SIR TRISTRAM	CANBERRA
BROADSWORD					BRILLIANT
	INTREPID	FORT AUSTIN		SIR GALAHAD	FEARLESS
	ARGONAUT			TIDEPOOL	

Whilst on our way West the weather closed down.

**21st May**

- 0000 ARDENT into Falkland Sound NGS at Goose Green
- 0100 Action stations
- 0123 Sea King dropped 1 depth charge possible submarine reclassified non sub
- 0148 PLYMOUTH with ELK-CANBERRA-NORLAND, South East of us FEARLESS I/C
- 0152 EUROPIC FERRY told to break out ammo
- 0210 FEARLESS and INTREPID pass through the gap
- 0240 PLYMOUTH group into San Carlos
- 0240 Defence stations all threats white
- 0410 Pass into Falkland Sound
- 0430 ANTRIM air red, action stations



**0450** ANTRIM - NGS  
**0453** Fall out defence stations  
**0630** Start landings  
**0840** Sea king dropped 1 depth charge  
**0930** Joined by ARGONAUT and BROADSWORD with LSL's and EUROPIC FERRY pass through the gap  
**1206** Air yellow  
**1230** Cap at 200° - 42 miles 4xSHAR  
 050 - 42 miles 2xSHAR  
 Around the force 1x SHAR  
**1232** Entendard 270°  
**1232** Enemy tanker hit by ARDENT gun fire  
**1235** Air red  
**1247** 4.5 inch engage Pucararas at 8 miles  
**1249** 4.5 inch jammed right gun ½ cocked  
**1254** Cap destroys 2 x A4's, earlier shot down 2 Puma's and one Bell helo, at 0815 SHAR shot down a Chinook helo (army) with 30mm cannon fire Flight Lieutenant Hare No 1 Squadron, 1st Puma Flight Lieutenant Hare, 2nd Puma Squadron Leader Pook No 1 Squadron  
**1315** Contact 258° - 80 miles strength 2  
**1321** Possible Handbrake 270° supper entendards  
**1325** Possible raid - CAP intercepting low bogeys 230° closing overland 10 miles  
**1327** Alarm aircraft Mirages (3)  
**1335** ANTRIM has unexploded bomb on board, (Captain Moreno)  
**1337** Sea Cat alarm aircraft red 160° low  
**1339** Confirmed Mirage dropped load overland  
**1340** 210° hostiles closing fast - low from ANTRIM  
**1341** Red 090 Mirage lost in cloud  
**1349** Explosion on land forward of ALACRITY  
**1355** ANTRIM closing BROADSWORD for protection weapon systems out of action  
**1358** Hostile 250° - 80 miles  
**1359** Possible Mirage 142° - 80 miles (4) closing  
**1403** Hostile 120° - 8 miles from ANTRIM  
**1425** 3 aircraft 50 miles  
**1435** BROADSWORD hit 8 hurt splinter damage (Major Martinez)  
**1457** 6 aircraft from the West  
**1503** 4.5 inch aircraft  
**1506** 2 mirage tracking left to right  
**1509** 2 Pucararas splashed by CAP. One of the kills went to Lieutenant Ward.

**Other aircraft shot down so far**

**0930** Pucara Grupo 3 Captain Benitz (stinger).  
**1016** Dagger Grupo 6 Lieutenant Bean shot down by ARGONAUT /PLYMOUTH sea cat.  
**1210** Pucara Grupo 3 Major Tomba 30mm cannon by Lieutenant Ward.  
**1304** 2 Skyhawks Grupo 4 Lieutenant Lopez and Lieutenant Manzotti (sidewinder) by Lieutenant Commander Blissett and Lieutenant Commander Thomas.  
**1420** Dagger Grupo 6 Lieutenant Launa (Sidewinder ) by Lieutenant Commander Frederiksen.  
**1453** 3 Daggers Grupo 6 Major Piuma - Captain Donadille - Lieutenant Senn (Sidewinder) 2 to Lieutenant Thomas, 1 to Lieutenant Ward.

**1511** 2 Skyhawk's from 3rd Naval Attack Squadron splashed both by Sidewinder Lieutenant Commander Philippi and Lieutenant Márquez, kills to Lieutenant Morell and Flight Lieutenant Leeming  
**1520** ARGONAUT splashed 1 Mirage  
**1541** 320° 1½ miles from BROADSWORD person in water  
**1555** ARDENT attacked by bombs from Mirage  
**1609** Air yellow  
**1714** Air red  
**1717** Unknown 250° - 120 miles  
**1725** YARMOUTH under attack - we don't know where from  
**1727** 250° strength, many aircraft 40 miles  
**1728** Classified Entendards CAP engaging  
**1732** 260° - 18 miles possibly 4 aircraft  
**1733** 4.5 inch aircraft blind Skyhawks  
**1734** Green 140 alarm aircraft  
**1735** 270° - 6 miles  
**1735** 4.5 cease fire  
**1735** ARGONAUT hit - 2 unexploded bombs onboard, ARGONAUT fires her Sea Cat and splashes one aircraft. Lieutenant Guillermo Lower Grippa in a Macchi 339. Two Skyhawks dropped 10 bombs, two entered the ship - one

in the boiler room , second bomb hit forward below the waterline, passed through a fuel tank and into the Seacat magazine. The two ratings in the Seacat magazine killed instantly. YARMOUTH's Wasp starts taking off ARGONAUT's wounded, PLYMOUTH towed ARGONAUT into San Carlos.

**1744** Two A 4's splashed by CAP, ARDENT hit by Captain Robles - Captain Gonzalezs - Lieutenant Bernhardt, 456 fired at.

**1747** 270° - 40 miles unknown, 4.5 aircraft green 30 ceased firing

**1748** BRILLIANT has damage ops-room , splinter damage

**1752** Two Mirages splashed by CAP, CO of 801 Squadron and Lieutenant Thomas, they downed a third

**1753** 290° - 8 miles strength 3 bogies assumed CAP

**1756** Hostile 230° - 20 miles opening

**1758** 4.5 aircraft alarm open fire

**1759** Aircraft fly over YARMOUTH towards ARDENT

**1800** ARDENT hit a second time, stand by to assist her

**1800** 1 CAP splashed, from No 1 Squadron a GR 3

**1804** 4.5 aircraft ships head 3 in number, aircraft which carried out 2nd attack on ARDENT, pilot's Lieutenant Commander Alberto - Jose Arca, they put three bombs in the same place as the first attack

**1808** Bootlace 281

**1815** 2 at 100 range 40 miles, Bootlace 250°

**1816** YARMOUTH under attack aircraft red 30

**1817** Pan fire on a machine gun, 315° - 15 miles

**1819** Going to assist ARDENT

**1820** ARDENT abandoning ship. YARMOUTH going alongside her port side, under attack - fire 4.5 and Seacat

**1845** All survivors onboard

**1855** Fouled ARDENTS port anchor cable on our starboard screw

**1900** Air yellow

**1903** Both shafts now clear -a very long 3 minutes; and so we leave yet another sad sight

**1910** Casualties stand by to transfer to CANBERRA, some by helo for immediate medical attention. ARDENT has twenty four killed and thirty wounded

**1915** 1 stretcher casualties to CANBERRA by 456

**1922** Air red

**1932** Handbrake 310°

**1934** Air yellow

**1935** Air red

**2002** Casualties for transfer flight deck

**2011** Air yellow

**2039** ARDENT survivors muster on flight deck for transfer by LCVP to CANBERRA.

Saying goodbye to ARDENT survivors is very moving; we put them into the LCVP's and they leave us, some giving us 3 cheers, some crying with relief and others simply standing silently watching

**2024** Fall out. YARMOUTH had been at action stations for 19½ hours



**Above: Approaching and alongside the stricken Ardent**



Above: Rescue completed the bomb damaged Ardent is abandoned



Above: I have a brother-in-law in the Argentine Navy. He thought these gifts might help.  
 25th May is the Argentine National Day  
 Below: Pictures from the reverse of the calendar he sent



## **22nd May**

**1035** Action stations  
**1122** Air yellow  
**1123** Jamming on AAWK  
**1124** FPB 30 miles being attacked by CAP 150°  
**1130** FPB beached  
**1221** Unknown 290° - 25 miles  
**1333** Pucaras closing from the East  
**1325** Possible low bogies 195° - 12 miles  
**1342** Confirmed CAP  
**1343** Air yellow  
**1343** Air red, BRILLIANT under attack  
**1345** Air yellow  
**1352** Weapons tight 175°  
**1713** Two shots fired from the flight deck in error when moving a LMG  
**1720** Submarine sighted on the surface at Terra Metas Point  
**1725** Rearm 456  
**1741** Heads up West  
**1752** From COVENTRY Moonbase Mirages 3's  
**1759** Air red  
**1802** Mirage in the Sound near BRILLIANT  
**1805** PLYMOUTH under attack from Mirages  
**1810** Threat 259° - 100 miles strength 3  
**1812** Threat 270° - 85 miles strength 6  
**1816** Threat 260° - 6miles tracking South  
**1820** Threat 230° - 50 miles tracking East  
**1824** Good lookout for A4's 190° slow  
**1828** Another threat 270° - 100 miles  
**1834** Threat 270° - 80 miles strength 2  
**1837** Weapons tight  
**1904** From Coventry launching birds (did not fire)  
**2001** Air yellow  
**2009** Flash possible Skyhawk attack from BRILLIANT  
**2010** Air red closing 100°  
**2015** 1 bomb dropped North of PLYMOUTH  
**2016** Bogies 180° - 8 miles  
**2029** Round Table 345° 1 sweep  
**2036** Air yellow  
**2045** Air white  
**2048** Air red  
**2049** Air white  
**2100** Fall out

## **23rd May**

**0015** Joined up with BRILLIANT going to put SBS on M/V MONSONNEN  
**0500** MONSONNEN beached, in the area of North arm. BRILLIANT going back to main group, we return to Sky Hawk pass. We have to go through Falkland Sound by ourselves. Daylight comes before we complete journey, I have never seen so many crossed fingers or people doing time-distance problems. In the event we finally get back to San Carlos without any trouble even if we did do 26 knots through the Islands.  
**1040** Action stations  
**1107** Air red  
**1157** Possible low bogies 210° from ARGONAUT  
**1200** Weapons tight  
**1201** Unknown 225° - 12 miles  
**1202** Bootlace 194° mirages closing fast bogies on INTREPID starboard beam identified CAP, boot lace from ARGONAUT 120°  
**1213** Air yellow  
**1245** SBS have left the ship  
**1307** Air red threat North  
**1310** Low bogies closing 050° - 2 miles from ARGONAUT  
**1314** Air yellow  
**1334** CAP has splashed a Puma and chasing another two, Puma (army) shot down by Flight Lieutenant Morgan  
**1337** Splashed second Puma and an Augusta. Augusta 109 (army) 30mm cannon fire Flight Lieutenant Morgan and Flight Lieutenant Leeming. Third Puma (army) 30mm cannon Flight Lieutenant Morgan.  
**1411** Fourth Puma (army) 30mm cannon Lieutenant Gedge and Lieutenant Commander Braithwait  
**1423** Possible unknown 270° - 30 miles spurious  
**1427** Lynx from ARGONAUT attacked surface contact assessing damage

**1455** 456 closing weapons tight  
**1538** Possible air attack  
**1636** Air red mirages  
**1639** 20mm fired  
**1640** All guns firing 1 bogie splashed by BROADSWORD, this aircraft knocked off ANTELOPE'S after mast  
**1642** ANTELOPE reports damage  
**1658** ANTELOPE reports an unexploded bomb (2000lb) on board. This bomb hit the PO's mess, killed a steward and wounded two others  
**1705** ANTELOPE has lost compasses and weapon systems operated by emergency means and she is anchoring at position 26  
**1706** Fast contacts from 315° - A4s  
**1708** Round Table 175°  
**1715** Heads up North  
**1716** Round Table 030°  
**1725** 225° - 6 miles  
**1728** possible two bogies splashed by BROADSWORD  
**1735** Assessed by AAWC possible 3 splashed 1 damaged  
**1754** Air yellow  
**1759** Air red - Mirage III racket 270°  
**1804** 310° aircraft engaging - opening North  
**1809** 320° - 18 miles from ARGONAUT bogies closing  
**1811** 170° overland spurious  
**1813** 050°  
**1815** CAP splashed 1 Mirage a Dagger from Grupo 6 pilot Lieutenant Volponi, Lieutenant Hale got him with a Sidewinder  
**1820** 309° Mirage III strength 2  
**1827** No CAP at all now bogies 320°  
**1832** CAP now joining 020° strength 2  
**1848** Possible hostiles North disregarding  
**1902** Air yellow  
**1933** Weapons tight 270°  
**2052** Assume State 1  
**2059** Fall out

Note, during the middle and morning ANTRIM left GLAMORGAN arrived. In later days Lieutenant Commander Braithwaite would shoot down a puma at Shag Cove House on West Falkland.

HMS ANTELOPE with main mast broken after being hit by an A4 (Skyhawk). The first bomb hole is just above the waterline under the bridge wing. The aircraft shot down in this attack was An A4 from Grupo 5 pilot Lieutenant Guadagnini and the pilot whose plane hit the mast Lieutenant Filipini.



#### 24th May

**1034** Action stations, ship under possible air attack, INTREPID over flown by jet no CAP up  
**1046** Air yellow  
**1233** Heads up West air red/yellow  
**1330** Unidentified contact 150° - 50 miles  
**1342** Flash racket 260° Mirage, air red  
**1344** Aircraft 270° - 70 miles from BROADSWORD  
**1345** 5 Skyhawks closing from the West (from army)  
**1346** Round Table 090°, guns engaging 4 aircraft  
**1351** 180° FEARLESS aircraft CAP



**1355** SIR GALAHAD has a bomb on board, attack carried out by Lieutenant Bono  
**1355** SIR LANCELOT has a bomb on board, attack carried out by Lieutenant Vasquez and Ensign Martinez  
**1358** Possible hostile 190° - 80 miles  
**1400** YARMOUTH moves to South of Sound to cover LSL's  
**1401** Hostile 270°  
**1402** Mirage closing fast 290° - 60 miles  
**1404** C130 70 miles possible tac-die low bogies closing from COVENTRY  
**1405** low bogies from South from FEARLESS all gun's engaging  
**1406** Aircraft going across stern  
**1408** Sea Cat miss-fire raid closing from South (CAP)  
**1410** Hostile closing 130° strength 2  
**1411** Racket mirage - INTREPID aircraft red 45  
**1414** Skyhawk's flying up creek from PLYMOUTH, all guns engaging  
**1415** two enemy splashed by YARMOUTH  
**1417** Rapier's claim 5 planes shot down  
**1418** Unidentified aircraft 010  
**1420** Heads up South from FEARLESS  
**1425** SIR GALAHAD may beach herself  
**1428** 3 sand s to relieve 3 RM's to rearm guns  
**1432** Land forces report raid closing from the West  
**1448** Hostile aircraft closing from the South CAP  
**1449** Low bogies 270° in the Sound disregard  
**1454** From COVENTRY possible round table 170°  
**1459** Hostile aircraft 145°  
**1500** Air yellow, weapons tight  
**1548** Gun fire heard on hills  
**1609** Air red  
**1611** Gun fire heard astern  
**1615** Air yellow  
**1920** Stand by to receive SBS  
**2057** Assume State 1  
**2103** Fall out

Aircraft brought down 3 Dagggers from Grupo 6 Lieutenant Castillo, Major Puga and Captain Diaz, a Skyhawk from Grupo 4 pilot Lieutenant Bono, multi weapons ARGONAUT, FEARLESS, Rapier and Blowpipe



**The end of HMS Antelope as she sinks beneath the waves**

#### **25th May - Argentine's National Day**

The night of 24/25th YARMOUTH to take SBS to Port Salvado, having got there we find there boat engines do not work. Having made as much noise as possible we push off before some one takes a pot shot at us and return to San Carlos.

**1045** Action stations  
**1052** Ship in 1z  
**1130** Aircraft 010° from ARGONAUT opening spurious  
**1132** Off India band



**1158** Ridged Raider capsized; stop engines - SBS in the water  
**1209** Gunfire heard astern from shore  
**1212** Good lookout all round  
**1224** Air red  
**1230** Unknown closing from North at 16 miles  
**1232** Rapiers report possible attack from the North  
**1234** Classified Skyhawk's tracking West  
**1236** 1 splashed by COVENTRY Lieutenant Garcia in an A4 of Grupo 4  
**1239** Contact 060 8 miles tracking North West  
**1248** Air yellow  
**1300** CAP 030° - 30 miles  
**1310** Contact 350° - 60 miles  
**1335** Air red  
**1339** 135° - 12 miles possible low bogies  
**1422** Air yellow  
**1450** Air red  
**1458** Air yellow  
**1528** Air red 1 splashed threat 4 raiders, ship bombed no damage, the pilot baled out Lieutenant Lucero of Grupo 4  
**1530** Aircraft did have refuelling probe, pilot in the water  
**1553** COVENTRY splashed 1 hostile  
**1542** One other trailing smoke seen by PLYMOUTH, flash Bootlace 060° Mirage III 40 miles  
**1544** Possible CAP  
**1545** Bootlace 060° from BROADSWORD 2 from EWO Bootlace 060° faded  
**1600** Rapiers will be testing shortly  
**1619** Flash low bogies 180° - 6 miles (from Rapier site)  
**1625** Spurious  
**1640** Air yellow  
**1657** Landing craft coming alongside to collect SBS  
**1707** Heads up West  
**1732** Low bogies 320° air red  
**1734** Unidentified aircraft 000 from FEARLESS  
**1735** Assessed as CAP/Dipper  
**1740** Air yellow  
**1745** Gunfire heard port side  
**1747** Square Leg from COVENTRY, Entendards and A4's  
**1757** Hostiles 275° - 120 miles  
**1800** Air red  
**1810** Threat now 271° - 64 miles  
**1813** Hostiles assessed to have gone low  
**1816** Hostile 290° - 38 miles  
**1818** Possible two raids  
**1819** CAP engaging on of the raids  
**1821** Low bogies 302° - 100miles  
**1824** Low bogies 310° - 100 miles  
**1825** BROADSWORD under attack by Lieutenant Colonel Zini  
**1827** COVENTRY has been hit and may capsize - tipping over, COVENTRY took three bombs (1000lb) each COVENTRY had 19 killed, pilot who got COVENTRY Ensign Jorge Nuevo  
**1829** Could be waves of hostiles  
**1831** BROADSWORD hit by bomb aft  
**1835** BROADSWORD 12 miles North of Pebble Island  
**1837** Low bogies 125° - 6 miles CAP  
**1839** ARROW has bogies 125° - 11 miles  
**1842** FEARLESS sending out SAR  
**1845** Unidentified aircraft 42 miles North  
**1852** Gunfire heard ashore  
**1911** COVENTRY position 310° - 33 miles  
**1945** Unknown closing, friendly CAP  
**2120** Assume state 1  
**2130** Fall out



We hear that 2 Super Entendards have carried out an Exocet attack and hit ALANTIC CONVEYOR, Captain North



**HMS Coventry's death roll**

**26th May**

1045 Action stations  
1222 Air red, Round Table 300°  
1228 Threat closing from the North West, from CAP  
1234 Round Table 210°  
1239 Air yellow  
1325 Air red  
1332 Weapons tight  
1351 Air yellow, weapons tight all round  
1411 Air red, flash bogies closing 230° - 30 miles  
1414 Bogies could be 8 miles away now low  
1421 Air yellow  
1612 Heads up West 165° - 5 miles  
1625 Possible air raid developing from Stanley, air red  
1659 Possible aircraft 300°  
1707 Contacts 264° not CAP 40 miles  
1709 Now 250° - 20 miles strength 2  
1710 Gone low 230° - 9 miles  
1711 Teapot 314° Mirages  
1714 Another two 213° - 15 miles  
1716 Another two 250° - 50 miles closing strength 2  
1724 Flash unknown pinnacle 270  
1731 Teapot 320° Mirage V classified Blue Fox - CAP  
1748 Air yellow  
2053 Air white  
2107 Assume state 2

**27th May**

1042 Action stations  
1110 Air yellow  
1424 Air red  
1429 456 landed ashore  
1545 Air yellow  
1611 Air red, possible contacts 14 miles - 140°  
1620 Air yellow  
1653 Air red, two aircraft closing from the East, Piecrust  
1656 Air yellow  
1658 CAP report engaging two aircraft Mirages, air red  
1704 Air yellow  
1707 1 CAP shot down and 1 damaged  
1713 Pilot ejected over Goose Green  
1721 Weapons tight  
1933 Aircraft, Aircraft 2 Skyhawk's  
1934 Assessed attacking Brigade HQ, all guns engaging YARMOUTH hit both aircraft, both left trailing smoke

**1934** 12 bombs dropped at Ajax Bay killing 6 and wounding twenty seven  
**1936** Assessed attacking Brigade HQ  
**1937** Assessed to have dropped 'Parachute' bombs  
**1940** Another raid coming in (from Rapiers)  
**1956** ARROW reports that a Skyhawk splashed, brought down by 40mm fire from FEARLESS and INTREPID aircraft from Grupo 5, pilot Lieutenant Velasco  
**2005** Air yellow  
**2013** Aircraft closing fast, Round Table Skyhawk's 270° gone low, no CAP at present  
**2015** Aircraft high 5 miles fuze 4.5 high, not CAP  
**2017** Flash hostile 230° now closing 25 miles  
**2020** Bootlace 170° Mirage closing from EWO  
**2022** Assessed hostiles 185° - 10 miles  
**2029** From ashore two hostiles closing from the West  
**2030** Low bogies 220° - 8 miles from ARGONAUT  
**2032** Bootlace 220° 1 sweep only + 1 sweep 290° from EWO  
**2033** Low bogies 225°  
**2045** Air yellow  
**2048** Air red low bogies 202° from ARROW  
**2058** Possible Bootlace 060°  
**2059** Bootlace 155°  
**2101** Weapons tight  
**2102** Air yellow  
**2120** Assume state 1  
**2126** Assume state 2



**Right: San Carlos Water**

It's been a funny old day. Went to the other side of the water to SIR LANCELOT to pick up some 7.62 ammo for the LMG's. SIR LANCELOT still has her bomb in the accommodation we had a look at it and left there was Me, L/S Quate, Sea Beven, A/B Cable. We got half way back to the ship when the weather closed down, couldn't see a thing, nearly hit FEARLESS, then got into a right mess - some rotten bastard dropped bombs on us as a fine state, seaboat full of ammo but no guns, get back to the ship and told to piss off by the OOW as there is an air raid on, not that we had not noticed, oh no!. So we go ashore with the Royal Marines, have a look at the wounded in the Red and Green Life Machine, have big eats then return to the ship after 6 hours. We were well looked after and even a tot (or two) was enjoyed.

The next boat going in shore was to fill sand bags. Just as they reached the beach there was an air raid and the boys were told to jump into a trench for safety which they did without hesitation. Shame it was the SHIT TRENCH, sorry George.

**28th May**

**1050** Action stations  
**1244** Air red possible CAP  
**1300** Air yellow  
**1303** Weapons tight  
**1450** Air red  
**1505** Air yellow  
**1540** Air red  
**1552** Air yellow  
**1602** Air red  
**1604** Low bogies 300° - 8 miles opening to the West  
**1610** Low bogies 280° - 5 miles  
**1616** Air yellow  
**1833** Air red  
**1837** Air yellow  
**1935** Bogies picked up by Piecrust air red  
**1938** Air yellow  
**2010** 1 Pucara splashed - pilot captured by foxhounds  
**2100** Air white  
**2111** Fall out

**29th May**

**0505** Action stations, air red

**0517** Ship in 1z  
**0524** Air yellow  
**0525** State 1  
**1045** Action stations  
**1133** Weapons tight  
**1340** Union Flag flying high at Goose Green following Argentinean surrender  
**1445** Orange forces at Jemex Point seen by our helo  
**1507** 2 special forces personel picked up by 456 returning to INTREPID  
**1520** Air red  
**1533** Aircraft heard in the Sound  
**1534** Heads up aircraft in the gap  
**1535** 1 aircraft splashed by Foxhounds a Dagger of Grupo 6 pilot Lieutenant Bernhardt  
**1537** 456 over flown by a Mirage to the North  
**1636** Air yellow  
**1653** Air red/yellow  
**1658** Air yellow  
**1849** Air red  
**1851** Low bogies 395° - 3 miles  
**1915** Air yellow  
**2111** Fall out

Lieutenant Commander Broadwaters aircraft slipped over the side of INVINCIBLE during a hard turn to starboard, he ejected (Harrier of 801 Squadron).

Other events during the day

1 Scout helicopter shot down by Pucarás, pilot Richard Nunn

The submarine ONYX arrived

One of D's Subalterns was shot dead when accepting surrender of a position (Jim Barry)

2 Pucarás shot down at Goose Green by 2 Para

I/C at Goose Green Air Vice Commodore Wilson Pedroza + 150 men and 900 troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Italo Pioggi surrendered. 250 dead Argentineans and 1200 prisoners. 2 Para lost 17 killed and 35 wounded.

5 Brigade transferred to CANBERRA and NORLAND from QEII at South Georgia.

Macchi 339 Naval Attack Squadron, pilot Lieutenant Miguel killed, brought down by Blowpipe.

Two other Pucarás from Grupo 3 Brought down, Lieutenant Gruzado and Lieytenant Argañaraz (Blowpipe and small arms).

1 Pucara from Grupo 1 Lieutenant Gimenez killed, crashed into high ground.

### **30th May**

**1040** Action stations  
**1200** GLAMORGAN used Sea Slug in NGS mode on Port Stanley airfield  
**1511** Air red contacts to the North West Friendly  
**1512** Air yellow  
**1625** Air red  
**1643** Explosion heard ashore (old ammo)  
**1710** Air yellow  
**2108** Fall out

1 Harrier lost to AA fire

Group came under Exocet attack, two fired non hit, two A4's splashed. AVENGER shoots down an Exocet. The 2 A4's were from Grupo 4 pilots Lieutenant Vasquez and Lieutenant Castill both killed EXETERS Sea Dart.



**HMS Yarmouth under attack from Sky Hawks**

**31st May - my birthday!**

**0045** Pick up 3 paratroopers from Great Island, we have to use our sea boat when we get to the Island we find the beach is all rocks which knock the bottom out of the boat, still we get it back OK. Early in the forenoon MINERVA is sent to the South to investigate and board a surface contact it turns out to be the Hospital Ship BAHIA PARAISO

**1050** Action stations

**2013** Air red aircraft high spotted by INTREPID

**2024** Alarm aircraft astern

**2035** Air yellow

**2120** Fall out



**What a way to spend a birthday**

Night of the 31st Hew Pike of 3 Para secured Estancia House within sight of Mount Kent.

42 Commando (K coy) and SAS troops took Mount Kent. Moody Brook 12 miles to the South West.

**JUNE 1982**

**1st June**

**0745** Action stations

**0817** Possible hostile 170° - 25 miles

**0825** Rapiers report 2 x A4's - 2 x Mirages - 5 x Canberra's closing

**0832** Weapons tight

**0834** Air yellow

**0851** Fall out

**1056** Action stations

**1338** Air red hostiles 330° - 60 miles

**1345** CAP splashed C 130 by Lieutenant Commander Ward CO of 801 Squadron shot down C 130 using Sidewinder and guns he was 240 miles from the carriers, with the CO was Lieutenant Thomas. The C 130 was from Grupo 1 Pilot

Captain Krause + six others killed.

**1402** Air yellow

**1426** Air yellow

**1427** CAP investigating hostile to the South

**1440** Air yellow

**2021** Hostile to the North CAP chasing

**2022** Air red

**2047** Air yellow

**2052** Air red Bootlace 106°

**2059** Air Yellow

**2100** Fall out

801 SHAR lost to AA fire near Stanley airport the pilot was Flight Lieutenant Mortimer, he was in the water for 8 hours before he was rescued by Lieutenant Commander Keith Dudley of 820 Squadron.

42 Commando flown up to Mount Kent they secured the adjoining ridge line of Mount Challenger.

3 Para held Mount Estancia and Mount Vernet and the SAS Murrell Heights.

2 Para airlifted to Fitzroy 1st lift of 78 of 'A' Company, 2nd lift of 78 men of 'B' Company in our only Chinook.

**2230** We leave San Carlos for the last time (at this time we did not know this). We have been at action stations or closed up for the past 12 days, sleeping at our action station, air attacks on most days, during daylight odd jobs at night; we are the longest Frigate/Destroyer to remain in San Carlos. Oh what joy to leave that terrible place.

**2315** RAS (L).

#### San Carlos Water



**Fearless, Nordland, Fort Austin, Resource**



**Blue Rover, Nordland, Baltic Ferry, Fearless,  
Atlantic Causeway**

#### **2nd June**

**1100** Joined up with the main group, CARDIFF, BRISTOL, EXETER, AMBUSCADE. ALACRITY, ACTIVE, INVINCIBLE, HERMES, BRILLIANT, BROADSWORD, AVENGER, IRIS REGENT, FORT AUSTIN, SIR TRISTRAM, STROMNESS, BLUE ROVER, UGANDA, NORDIC FERRY AND OLMEDA

**1545** Start vertrep with REGENT and FORT AUSTIN

**1617** Action stations

**1624** fired chaff 'D' possible Entendards 223°

**1641** Air yellow

**1724** Action stations Zippo 4 called (missile release) possible raid from the West Handbrake

**1725** Air red

**1732** Air yellow

**1733** State 1

**1739** Fall out

**1800** Carry on with vertrep then RAS (L) with OLMEDA





Me after 12 days and nights at action stations.  
Have not had a good bath and doby which will go down very well with a good nights sleep.

### 3rd June

We spent all day in the rest and repair area (TRRA) with STENA SEASPREAD, ARGOUNAT, IRISHMAN and SALVAGEMAN.



**STENA SEASPREAD**



**ARGONAUT and STENA SEASPREAD**

### 3rd June

In the TRRA 14 hours stand off to each watch.

Brazil releases our Vulcan.

Seven foot swell running.  
STENA SEASPREAD  
sent over their rubber boat  
- it didn't like our  
Mediterranean ladder  
which put a large hole in  
it.

#### Left to Right

Dave Pither RM  
App Edwards  
Ginge Gourley AB  
Smegers Seaman Ord  
Dave Roe AB



Holly Hollingshead Ord  
Me

### 5th June

RAS Avcat - remain with the main group (BROADSWORD, HERMES, ACTIVE, FORT AUSTIN, OLNA, ANDROMEDA, REGENT, SIR BEDIVERE, INVINCIBLE, BRISTOL FORT GRANGE, BEILLIANT, AMBSCADE, CARDIFF, MINERVA and EXETER)

During the Dogs detach with CARDIFF for NGS

### 6th June

**0303** Hands to emergency stations fire in the boiler room

**0305** Fire extinguished

**0330** Action stations

**0502** 4.5 stood to HE fuzed N3 for 080° North target height 600

**0509** 4.5 fired 10 rounds for effect

**0511** 4.5 fired 10 rounds for effect

**0556** 161 rounds expended

**0604** Air and surface warnings from CARDIFF red

**0605** Possible enemy surface craft 220° 10 miles

**0610** The ship has fire control radar locked on to us, knocked it out with 4.5

**0617** CARDIFF 3 miles ahead CARDIFF fires star shell formation 'O' surface contact now 225° - 7 miles

**0620** Course 180°, flood alarm in hull outfit 15

**0622** Course 120°

**0625** 4 surface contacts

**0626** Course 230°

**0634** No flooding in hull outfit 15

**0640** Wasp alert 8

**0641** Contacts tracking South 14 knots

**0647** Course 265° speed 25 knots

**0649** Course 280°

**0653** - 4 contacts are our LST's

**0707** Surface white, air yellow

**0714** Fall out

187 miles to the main group

BRISTOL, CARDIFF, ACTIVE, AMBSCADE, OLMEDA, TIDEPOOL, BROADSWORD, HERMES, FORT GRANGE, INVINCIBLE, FORT AUSTIN, REGENT ALACRITY, BRILLIANT ATLANTIC CAUSWAY, SIR BEDIVERE, OLWEN and NORLAND

RAS (L)

### 7th June

Stay with the main group BRISTOL, CARDIFF, ACTIVE, AMBSCADE, OLMEDA, TIDEPOOL, BROADSWORD, HERMES, FORT GRANGE, INVINCIBLE, FORT AUSTIN, REGENT ALACRITY, BRILLIANT ATLANTIC CAUSWAY, SIR BEDIVERE, OLWEN, NORLAND, ARROW, ONLA, BLUE ROVER, ENGADINE, MINERVA, NORDIC FERRY, ANDROMEDA, FARNELLA, CORDELLA, and PICT

CARDIFF splashed 1 Canberra out of 4 doing a high level bombing run.

ATLANTIC CAUSWAY, FARNELLA, CORDELLA, and PICT into San Carlos.

No NGS tonight? Wrong! During the dogs, off we go again for NGS

### 8th June

**0200** Action stations

**0213** CARDIFFS gun has a broken breech which will take 3 to 4 hours to repair, YARMOUTH to start firing as soon as possible. CARDIFF will remain off shore and try to effect repairs.

**0230** From CARDIFF in view of the importance of tonight's firings can YARMOUTH make another 89 rounds

available if required - Affirmative

**0241** Unknown surface craft 075° - 6 miles

**0247** 4.5 stand to

**0251** - 10 salvos fire for effect (South of Stanley)

**0254** 10 salvos fire for effect

**0257** 20 salvos

**0300** 10 salvos

**0303** 10 salvos

**0305** 10 salvos

**0309** Radar transmission 060

**0312** 10 salvos

**0316** 10 salvos

**0319** 10 salvos

**0326** 10 salvos

**0329** We take on CARDIFF's targets

**0332** Ship under fire from the shore. (Some of us used to stand on the upper deck to watch the fire fight and other happenings - then we had some air burst round us with little bits of metal flying about. Being heroes we all took cover *very fast*.)

**0333** 10 salvos

**0336** Skyguard 010° - 2 sweeps

**0337** Explosion 25 yards port side

**0346** 10 salvos

**0347** Skyguard radar locked on

**0407** 10 salvos

**0409** 5 salvos

**0412** 16 salvos

**0415** 10 salvos

**0426** Fire control radar locked on 043°

**0440** NGS completed. 187 rounds fired

**0510** Fall out, run back to main group, CARDIFF, BRISTOL, ACTIVE, ARROW, OLMEDA, AMBUSCADE, BROADSWORD, HERMES, RESSOURCE, FORT GRANGE, SIR BEDIVERE, TIDESPRING, INVINCIBLE and BRILLIANT

**1712** Action stations

**1718** YARMOUTH to move further North in sector

**1720** Fall out, air yellow

**1810** Detach for NGS by ourselves

On the way in we hear that PLYMOUTH has been hit, she was bombed, hit in the mortar handling room, after PO's mess, a Mk II depth charge blew up on deck 5 hurt. The attacking planes were 5 Mirages, PLYMOUTH hit one with Sea Cat.

**0700** SIR GALAHAD and SIR TRISTRAM arrived at Fitzroy

**1310** SIR GALAHAD and SIR TRISTRAM attacked by 2 Mirages, 2 Skyhawk's, 33 Welsh Guards - 7 RN and 11 others killed. 1st attack carried out by Captain Cafaratti, Ensign Codrington, Lieutenant Paredi and Lieutenant Hector Sanches.

LCU Foxtrot 4 was shot up, Colour Sergeant Johnson and five crew killed.

3 Skyhawks shot down, Lieutenant Arraras, Lieutenant Bolzan and Ensign Vazquez.

*The 8th of June has been the blackest day of the war for us.*

### **9th June**

**0150** Action stations

**0302** Start NGS ½ mile off shore

**1002** 16 salvos

**0303** 16 salvos

**0304** 16 salvos

**0306** 3 sweeps Skyguard 068

**0310** Air burst our port side

**0315** In kelp beds and Exocet area going astern

**0316** 16 salvos

**0320** 20 salvos

**0322** 20 salvos

**0324** 20 salvos

**0326** NGS completed under fire, large burst starboard bow, we have fired 124 rounds, we leave at 26 knots, gun fire still coming from the shore.



**0400** Find M/V MONSONNEN adrift and go to her assistance. Sent sea boat over to her with CPO Green, L/S Quate, A/B Cable and RO Hall.

CPO Green and RO Hall board MONSONNEN - met by Lieutenant McLaren (HMS FEARLESS), he told us he had a rope around his propeller and got this when trying to take Foxtro 4 in tow. Sent sea boat back to YARMOUTH for divers. Divers free the propeller at 0645, we return to the ship MONSONNEN returning to Goose Green, she had 200 Gurkha's - 7 land rovers - 5 trailers and a JCB on board. During this time YARMOUTH came along side and bashed her port side forward, so she pulled off - there was a very big swell running.

**0715** Leave area to join up with main group BRISTOL, CARDIFF, ACTIVE, OLMEDA, RESOURCE, FORT GRANGE, SIE BEDIVERE, BLUE ROVER, TIDESPRING, ARROW, BROADSWORD, HERMES, INVINCIBLE, BRILLIANT and ANDROMEDA

**1800** Detach for NGS

**1910** Recalled to group - possible air attack, not nice to be by ones self

**2000** Detached

#### **10th June**

**0232** Action stations

**0245** 1 band radar from surface contact 120 M/V MONSENNEN

**0247** The ship in lz

**0300** 4.5 stood to

**0318** 2 salvos

**0320** 10 salvos

**0324** 6 salvos

**0325** hit ammo dump or fuel dump from spotter, large amount of casualties and damaged vehicles

**0327** 2 salvos

**0330** 2 salvos

**0331** 10 salvos

**0336** 2 salvos

**0338** 2 salvos

**0341** 10 salvos

**0342** Skyguard steady scan 070°

**0344** 10 salvos

**0347** 2 salvos

**0349** 2 salvos

**0351** 2 salvos

**0358** 2 salvos

**0402** 2 salvos

**0407** 2 salvos

**0408** 10 salvos

**0412** 10 salvos

**0425** 20 salvos

**0426** 20 salvos

**0432** 20 salvos

**0434** NGS completed 144 rounds fired

**0442** Fired chaff 'C' up Exocet range to see if any thing would happen (Nil)

**0445** New target ammo dump

**0449** 10 salvos

**0452** 10 salvos

**0555** 10 salvos

**0456** NGS completed total rounds for the shoot; 174. We come under gun fire from ashore - shot landed 200 yards astern, asked to provide more NGS which we do.

**0500** Surface contact 240° - 18 miles, 456 to investigate

**0547** 456 airborne

**0556** 456 friendly the MONSONNEN

**0600** Return to the main group ACTIVE, ARROW, BRISTOL, CARDIFF, BROADSWORD, HERMES, OLMEDA, SIR BEDIVERE, RESOURCE, TIDESPRING, ANDROMEDA, INVINCIBLE, BRILLIANT and BLUE ROVER.

Stayed outside the TEZ all day, RAS (L) (S), vertrep 15 loads to OLMEDA by Sea King, overnight steam with the group.

**1700** detached with GLAMORGAN and ARROW to be joined by AVENGER on the gun line

#### **12th June**

**0000** Action stations, to night is the Army's big push, GLAMORGAN and us are in place, AVENGER will join us at

**0100** ARROW is to the North of Stanley

**0037** 4.5 stood to

**0100** Helo transfer with AVENGER

**0118** 20 salvos  
**0127** 10 salvos  
**0130** 10 salvos  
**0135** 10 salvos  
**0138** Hit ammo dump  
**0155** Troops ready for assault  
**0201** 10 salvos (Not fired)  
**0232** 10 salvos  
**0233** 2 salvos  
**0234** 2 salvos  
**0236** 2 salvos  
**0237** 2 salvos  
**0237½** 2 salvos  
**0238** 2 salvos  
**0240** 2 salvos, troops reach first objective, prisoners taken, many dead  
**0241** 2 salvos  
**0242** 2 salvos  
**0243** 2 salvos  
**0250** From shore good shooting by YARMOUTH, enemy ridge on fire, ship has come under fire from guns ashore  
**0304** 10 salvos  
**0307** 10 salvos  
**0308** 10 salvos  
**0310** Air burst 050°  
**0344** 10 salvos  
**0351** 2 salvos  
**0355** 2 salvos  
**0406** 20 salvos  
**0409** 10 salvos  
**0412** 10 salvos  
**0435** Radar 270°  
**0454** 20 salvos  
**0455** AVENGER gun U.S. she has not done much yet except make silly statements about going into the Exocet area. We take over AVENGER's targets. 2 CAP airborne 10 miles to the South, total rounds fired; 170  
**0500** Tired - 9½ hours on watch - 20 salvos  
**0530** 54 Commando have taken all there objectives, Paras just about to take theirs  
**0547** 2 salvos  
**0552** 2 salvos  
**0555** 2 salvos  
**0559** 43 salvos  
**0612** NGS completed 261 rounds fired, it has been a long hard night. GLAMORGAN wants to be bloody minded and take a short cut across the Exocet range. Ted Sykes is talking PWO to PWO advising them against this move, it turns out they want to race back to the main group. The Captain is now advising them against going across the range, our ops room is very quite as we all listen to the daftness, I don't think any of us believe what is happening.  
**0632** Possible Exocet attack, GLAMORGAN hit by missile, she fires a Sea Slug at it and missed  
**0640** GLAMORGAN hit port side hanger and main galley, us and AVENGER going to help. GLAMORGAN is making 15 knots; all three ships returning to the main group. Admiral has put up extra CAP aircraft for our protection just in case we get bounced by their aircraft.  
**0641** Me and A/B Campbell put our nets down, L/S Quate and A/B Cable get the sea boat ready.  
**0645** From GDP Alarm Exocet

I was on the upper deck port side when we fired 3 inch rockets, there were flashing lights bangs and a lot of noise; bits of ash from the rockets were drifting around, then the 4.5 fired chaff 'C'. The ship turned to starboard which felt as if we were rolling over to port, thought we'd been hit by a missile in the Sea Cat magazine which I was standing on top of. I said to myself "This is it - goodbye world" and I looked at the stars and thought "How long will it take to get up there?" Funny what goes through one's mind, it was all so fast.

GLAMORGAN has 13 killed and 20 wounded.

This need not have happened but for the vanity of one man who could not take advice from an officer junior to him. When we get home he should be tried for murder. The story will come out one day then all will know.

**0800** Fall out and return to main group

RAS (L). Tried to RAS (A) - helo pilot would not play

Remain with the group over night

A Wessex 3 attacked Port Stanley and put an AS 12 missile into the police station, the Argentinians shoot at the Wessex and missed but shot one of their own helos down.

3 Para lost 23 killed and 47 wounded

45 Commando lost 4 killed and 8 wounded

42 Commando lost 1 killed and 13 wounded

### **13th June**

**0800** Still with the main group EXETER, BRISTOL, AVENGER, RESOURCE, FORT GRANGE, ARROW, BALTIC FERRY, TIDESPRING, INVINCIBLE, BROADSWORD, HERMES, BLUE ROVER, ACTIVE, OLMEDA, AMBUSCADE and BRILLANT

**0800** RAS (A)

**1655** Action stations multiple Bootlace radar

**1658** AVENGER 2 X Mirages 259°

**1910** Mirage attacking troops at Stanley; we have 2 CAP up North 22 miles and 36 miles, 1 CAP over Stanley, us and AVENGER at action stations; we are out by ourselves half way between the Islands and the battle group on our way in for NGS

**1915** AVENGER slowed down machinery problems

**1917** AVENGER has screw problems. YARMOUTH to press on to the West, we increase to 26 knots

**1931** Air yellow

**1934** AVENGER has requested YARMOUTH to remain in the vicinity for 30 minutes whilst she sends a diver down to examine her port shaft. It is established that AVENGER has lost a blade off her port prop. She has been told to continue to the gun line. On completion of NGS she is to go to San Carlos, back to defence stations

### **14th June**

**0103** Dan buoy laid to be used as a navigation mark for the 21's on the gun line. The Dan is in Berkeley Sound. We are carrying out a mine detection sweep as we are on the edge of the minefield - not often one gets to lay a Dan at 12 knots. There's a lot of star shell - gun fire tracer from small arms fire. The sky is alight with war.

**0113** 4.5 stood to

**0115** Friendly helo

**0124** Bootlace 262° - 75 miles, have been told 3 x type 21's will join at 0300

**0126** Possible raid of 4 - 20 miles West of San Carlos

**0133** Air red

**0138** 4.5 stood to AA 2 contacts 190° - 17 miles closing

**0153** 2 salvos

**0156** Rapier splash 1 bogie, 1 splashed by CARDIFF, 2 others shove off

**0159** 20 salvos

**0200** Army to move forward; we are to support the Scots Guards

**0203** 20 salvos

**0207** 10 salvos

**0210** 10 salvos

**0221** 2 salvos

**0224** 2 salvos

**0226** 20 salvos

**0243** 20 salvos

**0247** 10 salvos

**0249** 10 salvos

**0317** 2 salvos, joined by AVENGER, ACTIVE and AMBUSCADE

**0320** 2 salvos

**0322** 1 salvo

**0324** 1 salvo

**0327** 1 salvo

**0329** 20 salvos

**0332** 20 salvos

**0333** 20 salvos

**0335** 20 salvos

**0347** 16 salvos

**0414** ACTIVE's gun defective. From the 21's - "You did a good job with the Dan BZ"

**0555** 4 salvos

**0600** NGS completed, 244 rounds fired



**0718** Fall out

Back to the battle group. It's a rough journey - we lose 2 bridge windows and have to ditch some oil drums.

**Strange old weather we're having**



Battle group HERMES, INVINCIBLE, BRISTOL, BROADSWORD, BRILLIANT, EXETER, ANDROMEDA, AVENGER, ARROW, ACTIVE, AMBUSCADE, PLYMOUTH, FORT GRANGE, BAYLEAF, OLMEDA, TIDSPRING, BLUE ROVER, BALTIC FERRY, CANBERRA and SIR BEDIVERE

**1605** detached with PLYMOUTH inward bound for Stanley at 25 knots, we have heard from shore that the Paras are in Stanley and there are a lot of white flags around the area

**2345** Action stations

**15th June**

**0031** 2 miles to Berkeley Sound

**0033** Mine detection sweep

**0050** Entering Exocet danger area

**0120** Speed 12 knots, PLYMOUTH ahead ½ a mile

**0111** Surrender of Port Stanley has been signed

**0135** Surrender of East and West Falkland accepted

**0255** Helo in the hover red 30 ours or theirs

**0333** Told to return to the main group

**0452** Fall out



**16th June**

With the main group

**1810** R/V with St EDMUND, CONTENDER BEZANT, and BRILLIANT for mail

**2000** Depart with OLMEDA for South Georgia

**Right: ST EDMUND** - a Cross Channel Ferry pressed into service

**17th June**

Passage to South Georgia

**1830** RAS (L)





A signal from PLYMOUTH to YARMOUTH 20-6-82

*From PLYMOUTH to YARMOUTH*

*The Squadron will be very proud of the HERCULEAN contribution made by you to the success of CORPORATE BZ.*

**21st June**

**1400** Sail Southern Thule for South Georgia with OLMEDA



**Southern Thule**



**What a fine looking fellow!**



**HMS Yarmouth**

**22nd June**

Passage to South Georgia with OLMEDA, RAS (L)

**23rd June**

**1000** Arrive South Georgia

**1200** Transfer POW's from OLMEDA to YARMOUTH

**1300** Sail for Stanley



**South Georgia**

**Lots of these around**



**24th June**

On our own first time for many weeks, passage to Stanley with POW's

**25th June**

**0400** Joined up with BROADSWORD, HERMES, EXETER, AMBUSCADE, ACTIVE, BAYLEAF, TIDESPRING, TIDEPPOOL and EBURMA

**1200** Made our way into Port William to land POW's

I had a quick look ashore and got some photos





#### **26th June**

With the main group HERMES, BROADSWORD, ACTIVE, AMBUSCADE, EXETER, TIDEPOOL, BAYLEAF, ANCO CHARGER and SHELL EBURNY

RAS (L)

During the long first went to air yellow argies launched one C 130+ A4's and Entendards, night flying we still live under the threat of an air attack which will no doubt come sooner or later

#### **27th June**

With the main group, same as the 26  
**1800** Casex A6 with COURAGEOUS

#### **28th June**

**0000** Casex A6  
**0200** Ships same as 26 + ANTRIM  
**2030** Casex A2 with COURAGEOUS

#### **29th June**

With the main group HERMES, BROADSWORD, ACTIVE, EXETER, TIDESPRING, TIDEPOOL, BAYLEAF, SHELL EBURNA and ANTRIM

ANTRIM leaves for the UK

#### **30th June**

With the main group EXETER, ACTIVE, TIDEPOOL, FORT GRANGE, SHELL EBURNA, BAYLEAF, TIDESPRING, BROADSWORD and HERMES

FOF 1 to all ships 317.8

From Rear Admiral WOODWARD. *As I haul my South Atlantic flag down, I reflect, sadly on the brave lives lost and good ships gone in the short time of our trial. I thank wholeheartedly each and every one of you for your gallant support, through determination and fierce*



*perseverance under bloody conditions.*

*Let us all be grateful that Argentina doesn't breed bulldogs and as we return severally to enjoy the blessings of our land, resolve that those left behind for ever shall not be forgot.*

## **July 1982**

### **1st July**

EXETER to San Carlos

Main group CARDIFF, PENELOPE, BRISTOL, ACTIVE, BROADSWORD, HERMES, TIDESPRING, TIDEPOOL, FORT GRANGE, BAYLEAF and SHELL EBURNA

**0200** Sent to stand by BRITISH ENTERPRIZE III, she has no main engines wait all day for the tug TYPHOON who arrives at 2000

**2115** Detach to rejoin the main group

### **2nd July**

**0530** Casex A6

In the afternoon BROADSWORD, HERMES, and ANDROMEDA into Falklands this will be the first land HERMES has seen for 86 days, then BROADSWORD and HERMES will leave for the UK

**2100** Casex A6 then RAS (L)

2-7-82 From BROADSWORD to YARMOUTH

*Sorry not to be completing the round trip in your company but you have the distinction of being the last of the originals to remain on the job.*

*We have admired your charmed life despite being invariably in the thick of the fray. BON VOYAGE and a happy homecoming when your time comes round.*

### **3rd July**

**0000-0600** Casex A6

Main group INVINCIBLE back after 3 weeks RandR, CARDIFF, BRISTOL, AMBUSCADE, BAYLEAF, BRAMBLELEAF, SHELL EBURNA, REGENT and AVERLONA STAR

### **4th July**

Main group BRISTOL, INVINCIBLE, ANDROMEDA, CARDIFF, MINERVA, REGENT, TIDEPOOL and SHELL EBURNA

### **5th July**

Main group INVINCIBLE, ANDROMEDA, BRISTOL, MINERVA, TIDEPOOL, REGENT, IRIS, and SHELL EBURNA

### **6th July**

Main group CARDIFF, ANDROMEDA, BRISTOL, MINERVA, TIDEPOOL, REGENT, IRIS, and SHELL EBURNA

### **7th July**

**0000-0600** Group joined by SOUTHAMPTON, BIRMINGHAM, APOLLO, BACCHANTE, old group CARDIF, EXETER, FORT GRANGE, TIDEPOOL, BAYLEAF

APOLLO sticks to us like glue we do not want to loose her as she is our relief; we hand over ready for the off on the 8th July

### **8th July**

Main group as yesterday

We are told that will steam pass before leaving, we can't wait for 1500 the time to depart, we will be the last in line.



### Goodbye to the Task Group

**1500** EXETER, CARDIFF and YARMOUTH steam pass INVINCIBLE and ANDROMEDA as we leaving for home.

INVINCIBLE and ANDROMEDA clear lower deck to give us a cheer as INVINCIBLE came past us every one was clapping and cheering us whilst she was blowing her sirens for us. ANDROMEDA crew were throwing spuds and other articles at us -a good send off to help on the long journey home.

*From INVINCIBLE to YARMOUTH*

*We know what you have done, safe journey home to a good welcome.*

**1600** Fall out from Defence stations - the first time since 17th April a total of 99 days

CARDIFF and EXETER have been sent home with us to make sure we get back OK.

#### **9th July**

With EXETER and CARDIFF on passage home, we are getting back to normal.



#### **10th July**

RAS (L) with APPLELEAF



#### **11th July**

½ way to Ascension Island, the first Sunday routine since 18th April passed DANAE and DIOMEDE on their way South



From C in C Fleet to YARMOUTH

*As the last of the original Springtrain group to set off for the UK, I wish you to know how impressed I have been by your endeavours. You have contributed much to the success of Operation Corporate. Well done and have a happy run home.*

**12th July**

On passage

**0815-1130** As 1077 task books, otherwise a quiet day

**13th July**

Passage home

**0815-1100** AS 1077

**1400** RAS (L) with BRITISH TAMAR a BP tanker. EXETER RAS with BRITISH ESK - on completion all five ships got into position for a photo.

YARMOUTH

CARDIFF

EXETER

BRITISH TAMAR

BRITISH ESK

**Then the 3 Warships steamed between the two tankers to make an arrowhead formation**



BRITISH  
TAMAR  
from  
YARMOUTH



**14th July**

Passage home.

**15th July**

Passage home

EXETER is doing Leading Seaman and Petty Offices boards today

Stop for Hands to bath

**16th July**

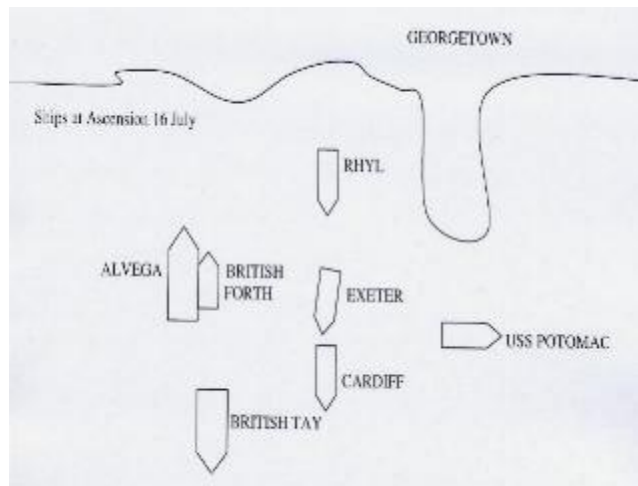
The mail arrives by RAF Sea King

Over flown by a Bear

A Chinook arrives with stores for EXETER

**1700** Fly pass by 2 Lynx and our WASP

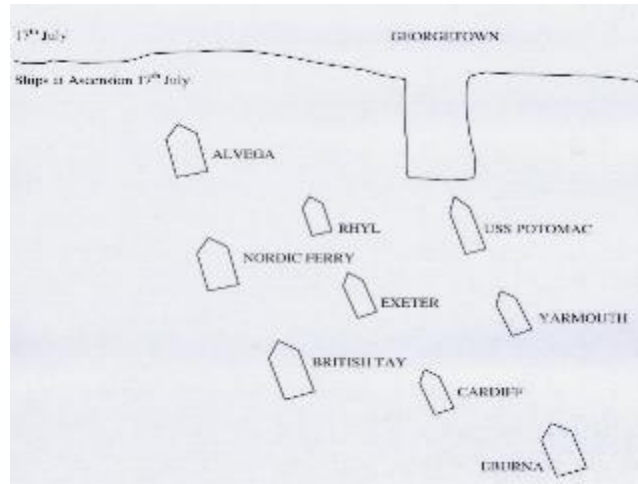
**1800** Anchor Ascension Island



**Ascension Island**



**USS Potomac**



**1000 RAS (L)** alongside ALVEGEA, and land sports teams  
 During the Dogs we land our advance leave party who will fly home on the 18th July  
**2200** Sail Ascension Island with EXETER and CARDIFF



**ALVEGEA**

**18th July**

Passage home

**1030** A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance on the flight deck

**1100** Bar-B-Q on the flight deck, steake, chicken legs, sausages, chops, jacket spuds, salad and free beer.

**1630** Hands to bath

**19th July**

New working hours 0800-1200

**1400** Crossing the Line, and to finish the day off we all had a go with 4.5, GPMG's, LMG's, 3 inch and 2 inch rockets for old times sake



**20th July**

Passage home, normal working day it also rained all day. Ship at 0800 200 miles from Freetown. 2600 miles to go doing about 384 miles per day

**21st July**

**0830** RAS (L) with PEARLEAF

**1230** Salad lunch on the flight deck - nice!

**1330** Rig stalls for afternoon race meeting, each mess to provide a stall

**1400** First race

**1630** Prize given by the Jimmy (John Plummer), won £2-00 on the last race. The money made will go to Children's Ward at Edinburgh Hospital; we made £243 and £34 from last night's film which was shown on the flight deck, same again tonight.

**22nd July**

Passage home

**1400** It's-A-Knockout on the upper deck

**1900** Passed Italian trawler ASPRA her position



**23rd July**

Passage home, weather has changed for the worst, like being in the middle of winter. At 0800 we were 1642 miles from Rosyth and 140 miles from the Canaries.

**24th July**

Passage home, our last day with EXETER and CARDIFF

**1550** RAS (L) with PLUMLEAF

**1730** Depart from EXETER and CARDIFF, EXETER first - they heaved, fired and threw toilet rolls, eggs and water at us, then we had to pass CARDIFF who did the same. We ring on 28 knots.



**First  
Exeter**



**Then  
Cardiff**



From Captain D5 (HMS EXETER) to YARMOUTH

*It has been a pleasure to have been in company with an unscathed hero of the original Corporate pack.*

*We watched your success with great admiration and would like to add our congratulation to the many to come your way.*

*Good Luck.*

And so we leave them behind as we head for Portland to land the Flight and fuel ship.





**L to R: Joe-Skinny, Fergus, Ginge, George, me and Mick**



**L to R: Dave Roe, George Cable, me "What's this then?"**



**Only one quarterdeck like this!**

**25th and 26th July**

28 knot passage to Portland, on the 26th we were over flown by a Dutch Atlantic which stayed with us for about 30 minutes



**27th July**

**0630** Arrive at Portland  
**0830** FOST arrives on board  
**0900** Sail from Portland for Scotland  
**0905** 456 flyis to RNAS, leaving Portland pass HMS LIVERPOOL, 28 knot passage through the channel



**Portland**



Rosythe, here we come

**28th July**

H.M.S. YARMOUTH  
At Sea/ROSYTH

**DAILY ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 1982**

O.O.D. S/Lt BRITTON/Lt WILKINSON  
Duty Part Starboard Watch Advance Leave Party

**DAILY SEA/HARBOUR ROUTINE**

**0805** Hands turn to by Departments.  
**A.M.** Rig Jumping Ladder Starboard Side.  
**1000** Your Last chance to ditch gash.  
**1115** S.S.D. to Lunch  
**1135** S.S.D. CLOSE UP. Assume BBCD State 3 Condition 'Y'  
 1230 Secure to No 1 buoy (Slip Rope only - Weather permitting).  
 O/C Ammunition Barge secures alongside (Port Side).  
**1240** Ammunition Party as detailed muster on the Flight Deck (See Note 2).  
**1240(Approx)** Boat alongside with Press/Customs/Stores/Mail.  
**1300-1345** Press brief in Captain's Cabin.  
**1300** Commence Customs clearance in the Hangar.  
**1350** Piping Party to muster plus Boat reception Party as detailed.  
**1400** FOSNI and Port Admiral Rosyth arrive.  
**1430** All visitors to be clear of the ship.  
**1440** FOSNI and Port Admiral depart.  
**1440** Hands clean into No 1s - Men detailed for handling Wires and fenders No 2s (negative Lanyards - Chin stays will be down).  
**1500** Ship's Company fall in for Procedure ALFA.



**1515** Slip from No 1 Buoy  
**1530** ETA Forth Rail Bridge.  
**1535** Gun Salute - FOSNI - (15 Rounds).  
**1550** Berth alongside South Arm. (2 Gangways on the Flight Deck).  
O/C Advance Party returns.  
**1630** Main Leave commences.

#### NOTES

**1. HEADS** The Ladies onboard today will have use of the Wardroom and After Senior Rates Heads. The Wardroom will use the Bridge Heads.

**2. AMMUNITION PARTY** The following will muster on the Flight Deck as piped:  
MEM TURNBULL: MEM BERKELY: MEM FARQUHAR: MEM CHILVERS:  
MEM McMEECHAN: STWD BLAKEY: LWTR BOWYER: S(S) EVANS:  
WEM(R)POWELL: AB HAFHEY: MNE SOUTH: MNE ATTRILL:  
S(S) CAMPBELL: MNE CHIN: S(M) NEWBURY: AB GORLAY: S(S) ROE:  
S(S) PEARSON: 2 R.O.s as detailed.

**3. SIGNAL RECEIVED** The following signal has been received from Captain PENTREATH (Ex Captain F6). "Welcome home and many congratulations on your Splendid performance. Have a wonderful reception and a very well earned rest".

**4. SCUTTLES** A few were not cleaned before we entered PORTLAND. ALL scuttles are to be cleaned by 1400

**5. MONDAY 23 AUGUST** 2nd Port/Red Watches will be Duty.  
Routine will be:  
1315 Both Watches of Seaman and Royal Marines muster on the Flight Deck.  
Hands turn to by Departments  
1400 D.E.D. Conference in 'G' Berth Conference Room.  
1700 Secure. Night leave granted. Duty Part of the Watch to muster.

Be warned, the Ship may be Cold Moved to CROMBIE P.M. Otherwise be prepared for an early start on Tuesday 24th .

**6. LEAVE** I hope you all have a most enjoyable leave with your families

**7. RECORD** On arriving back at ROSYTH, the Ship would have steamed 41,154 miles since 01 March.

**8. FOSNI and PORT ADMIRAL** Don't forget, FOSNI (Vice Admiral R.R. SQUIRES) and the Port Admiral Rosyth (Rear Admiral J. WARSOP) will be walking around the Ship today.

**9. TOMORROW (THURSDAY)** Clean Ship working party will muster on the Flight Deck at 0900.

**10. ROUTINE FOR GUESTS** Once the Ship is secure at South Arm a pipe will be made 'Ships Company proceed ashore to kiss your love ones'. Personnel should proceed onto the jetty and escort their families back on via the after most gangway to their messes where teas will be available. The Ship will be very, very crowded and is not the time to take your family on a guided tour of the Ship. Necessary movement around the Ship should be by the Upper Deck where ever possible to ease congestion. The Wardroom and Senior Rates Heads Aft are reserved solely for female guests.

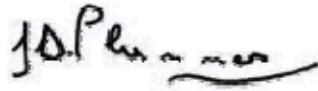
**Baggage** To leave more room in Messdecks for families, packed suite cases and grips may be stowed in the Hanger from 1100 onwards.

**Beer Issue** A second Beer Issue will be made at 1430.

**11. STORE PARTY ON 23 AUGUST** The following will make up the NAFFI Store Party on Monday 23 August:

MEM BAIN: MEM PROUDFOOT: MEM WATSON: MEM FARQUHAR: MEM FINNIE: AB SYKES: MNE ARNOLD: AB SNOWBALL: S(M) ANDREW: S(R) GREEN: AB CAREY: S(M) STACEY: AB McHANON: S(M) BOLGER

RO MEW: RO LEE: 2 W.E. and 2 S&S as detailed.



**J. D. PLUMMER**  
Lieutenant Commander R. N.  
First Lieutenant.

**The Homecoming**



**HMS Stubbington**



**Welcome from a dockyard tug**



**RAF Wessex and Fleet Tender Gwendoline**



**Tug Cairn**



**Forth Road Bridge - closed due to the weight of people**



**Forth Railway Bridge - three trains stopped so passengers could watch the homecoming**



**15 gun salute to Flag Officer Scotland**



**Booted and suited, ready for home**



**Just a few people waiting to welcome us!**



**Gangway coming in**



**F101, Yarmouth, The Crazy Y arrives safely home without loss**

*Chops*

### **Diary glossary**

177 paper tins	177 paper - used on the range recorder of a sonar set
415	Yarmouth main armament (gun on the bows)
456	Call sign for Yarmouth's helicopter
992	Ship's radar
A4's	Argentinian aircraft - Skyhawks
Air white / yellow / red	white: All clear / yellow: Possible attack / red: under attack
Attacker	Short range sonar
avcat	Helicopter fuel
Birds	Ship's missiles (Sea Dart)
bogey / bogies	Enemy aircraft in general
Bootlace	Enemy radar
Burgler	Enemy radar
C130	Aircraft - Hercules - used by both British and Argentinian
Canberras	When in lower case - Argentinian aircraft, not CANBERRA the ship
CAP	Combat Air Patrol
casex	Anti submarine exercise
chaff	Arial decoy to enemy radar
dippers	Helicopters with dipping sonar units dipped into the sea whilst in flight
dogs	dog watches during the hours 1600-1800 and 1800-2000
Entendard	Enemy aircraft - carries Exocet missiles
EWO	Electronic Warfare Officer

FOSNI	Flag Officer Scotland and Norther Ireland
FPB	Fast Patrol Boat
FX	Forecastle bows of a ship
gash	garbage / rubbish
Grupo	Not a spelling mistake - this is the Argentine 'Group'
HE	Hydrophone effects - propellor noises etc - underwater sounds
heads up	A warning
helo	(Pronounced He-Low) Helicopter
Mirage	Enemy aircraft
NGS	Naval gunfire support - Army spotter ashore giving co-ordinates of enemy target
Passive sonar	Listening only - not giving out signals that could be picked up by the enemy
Piecrust	Enemy radar
Pucara	Enemy grand attack aircraft
PWO	Principal Warfare Officer
QD	Quarterdeck
R/V	Rendezvous
Rapier	Land based surface-to-air missile
RAS	Replenishment at Sea
RAS (A)	Replenishment at Sea (take on Ammunition)
RAS (L)	Replenishment at Sea Liquid (take on Fuel)
RAS (S)	Replenishment at sea (take on Stores)
RFA	Royal Fleet Auxiliary
Riser	Periscope
Round Table	Enemy radar
SAR	Search and Rescue
SBS	Special Boat Service
Sea Skua	Air-to-surface missile - fired from a helicopter
SHAR	Sea Harrier - aircraft
Sidewinder	Air-to-air missile
splashed	Enemy shot down
SSD	Special Sea Dutymen
State 1 / State 2	Degrees of readiness
Teapot	Enemy radar
TEZ	Total Exclusion Zone - area for UK units only
TRRA	The rest and repair area
U/S	Unserviceable
Unifoxer	Torpedo decoy
veretreps / vertreping	Vertical Replenishment (by helicopter)
weapons tight	Do not fire any weapons - it is a friendly target