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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 TIDESPRIING.



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 TIDESPRIING (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 differnt 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-AVANGER 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

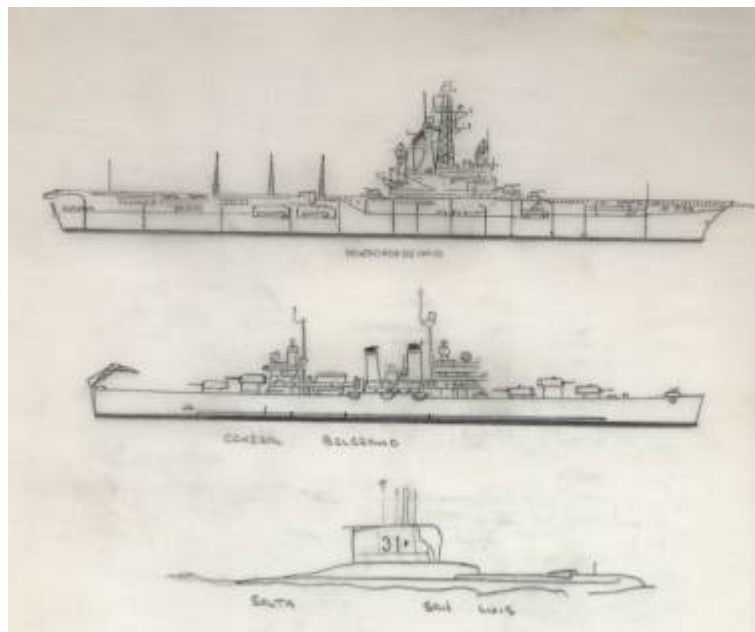
1057 Action stations possible air raid two low bogeys 250 miles closing from the West
1101 Air yellow
1114 Fall out
1124 Action stations possible air raid from the West
1126 Handbrake racket - CAP investigating zippo 4 - 240° air red chaff "C" India band 305°
1127 Fired chaff
1132 Two possible contacts 100 miles ahead of CAP
1146 Air yellow CAP found nothing
1152 Fall out

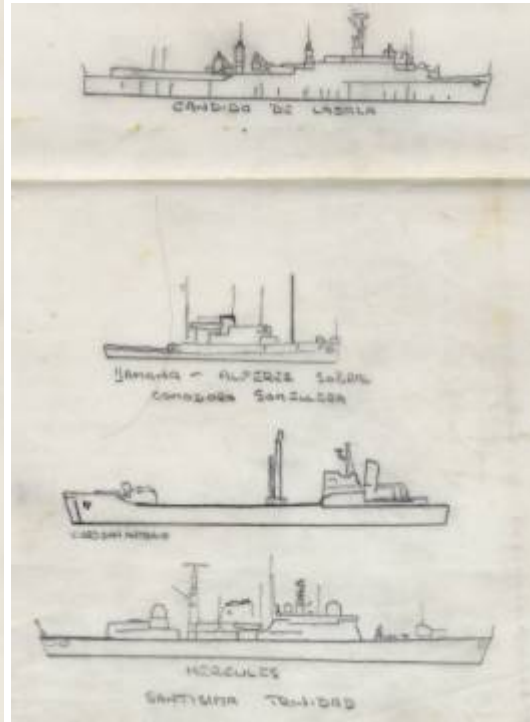
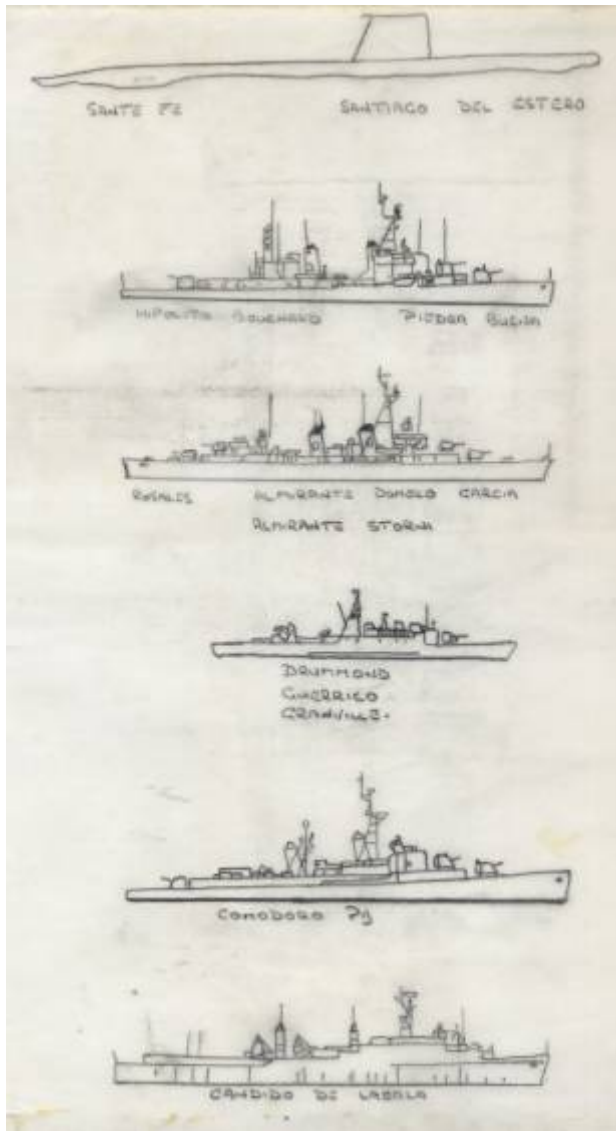
18th May

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

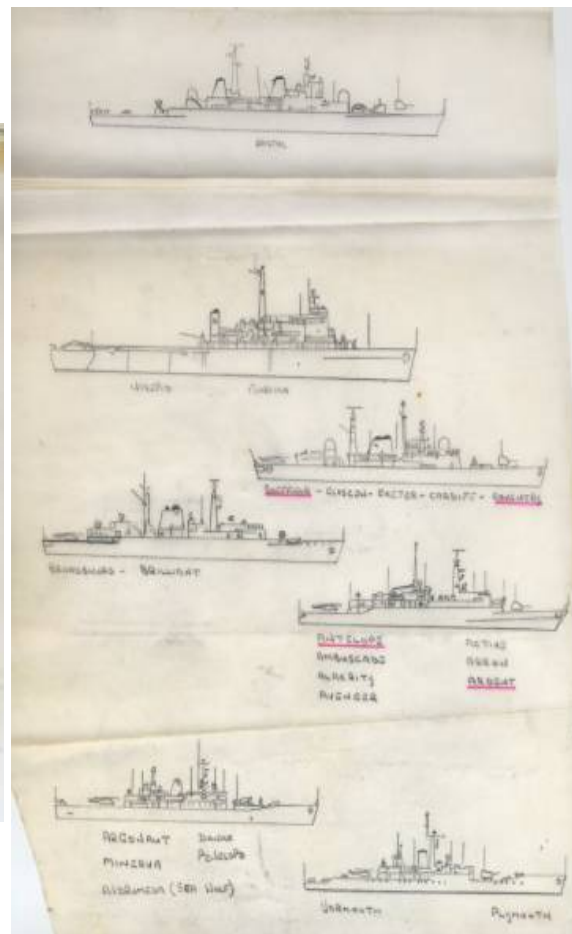
HERMES gives 4x sea king 5's to FORT AUSTIN 826 Squadron

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 GERAIN	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 ARGOUNAUT 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 Pucarar 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 Pucarar 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 ARGOUNAT 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 Daggers 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 personnel 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 Argentines 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 Lieutenant 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 EXETER'S 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 Foxtrot 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, TIDESPING, 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 1z

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, TIDESPING, 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, TIDESPRIING, 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

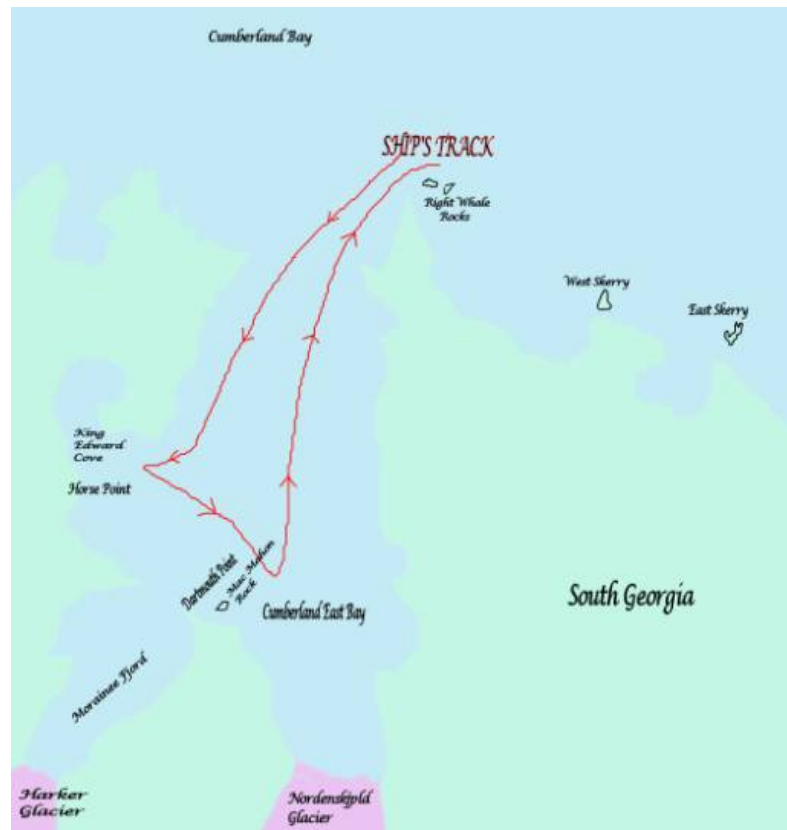
17th June

Passage to South Georgia

1830 RAS (L)

18th June

1100 RAS (S) with REGENT
1530 Go into Grytviken for ships company to take photographs - a very impressive sight, we have also seen our first icebergs. ANTRIM is outside Grytviken harbour, ships inside tug YORKSHIREMAN and WHIMPY SEAHORSE
1800 GEESTPORT arrives

**19th June**

Still going South with OLMEDA, have passed lots of icebergs RAS (L), should R/V with ENDURANCE and SALVAGEMAN at 0400 on the 20th.

20th June

0400 R/V with ENDURANCE and SALVAGEMAN
0830 Start into Southern Thule
0940 Heaving line transfer with SALVAGEMAN
1218 Action stations, 456 lands spotter and Micky Chin
1225 456 is ashore as members of the enemy garrison walk towards it with white flags
1232 OLMEDA launching helos with Royal Marines
1238 Leaving gun line (5 miles South of the Islands) to close Thule
1239 Launching 456 to collect spotter + 1
1243 Party from ENDURANCE land
1253 Island surrenders 10 persons only, 9 Navy and one Air Force. Midshipman I/C of the party
1800 Surrender signed onboard HMS ENDURANCE



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, TIDEPOOL 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 CARDIFF, EXETER, FORT GRANGE, TIDEPOOL, BAYLEAF

APOLLO sticks to us like glue we do not want to lose 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 DANAÉ 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
H



14th July

Passage home.

15th July

Passage home

EXETER is doing Leading Seaman and Petty Officers boards today

Stop for Hands to bath

16th July

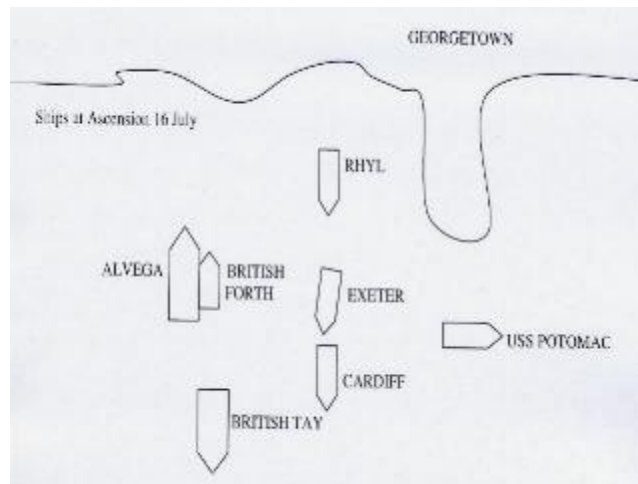
The mail arrives by RAF Sea King

Over flown by a Bear

A Chinook arrives with stores for EXETER

1700 Fly pass by 2 Lynx and our WASP

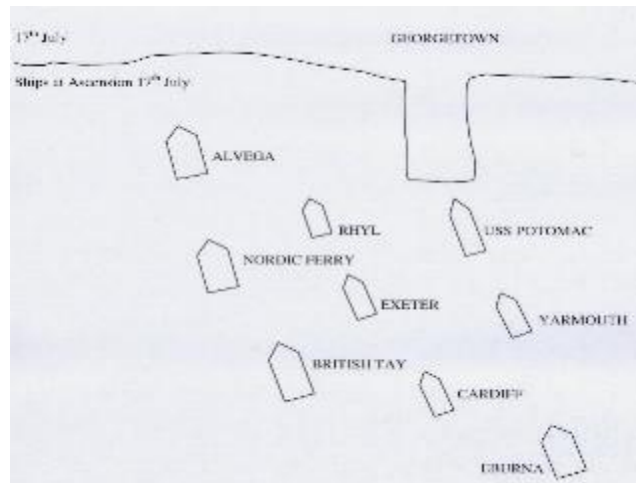
1800 Anchor Ascension Island



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



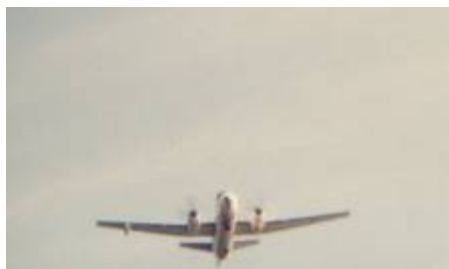
L to R: Dave Roe, George Cable, me "What's this then?"



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 HAFLEY: 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

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	Aerial 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	Rendevouz
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