



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

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sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

Remembering The Falklands War

by Bob Hill (Sedgley Royal British Legion)

I wonder how many people can remember a small piece of news in March 1982 when scrap metal merchants raised the Argentinian flag on South Georgia Island? It eventually led to the invasion of the Falklands Islands in early April of that year.

For the first time in many years the British Parliament met on a Saturday morning and within 72 hours a Royal Navy Task Force was assembled on 2nd April to make 8,000 mile voyage to the South Atlantic with its aim to retake the Falklands. This task force took three weeks to arrive in Falklands waters and during the ensuing weeks slowly but surely the Islands were retaken, but not without loss on both sides.

A number of soldiers lost their lives as well as those who were seriously injured. Ships were destroyed - for the Argentines, the sinking of the "General Belgrano" by torpedo was a huge loss.

The British Navy had the following ships hit or destroyed: HMS Sheffield, HMS Ardent, HMS Coventry, HMS Plymouth, HMS Glamorgan, Sir Tristram, Sir Galahad and MV Atlantic Conveyor.

Eventually Argentina surrendered on 14th June and the end to the hostilities was declared on 20th June 1982.

The quote that sticks in my mind from that time was from the late Brian Hanrahan, a BBC news reporter:

"I counted them all out, I counted them all back"

This enabled him to get around reporting restrictions to tell the television viewers that all jets aboard HMS Hermes had returned safely.

My thanks to the Royal British Legion for this information.



An Argentine scrap metal dealer on South Georgia in March 1982.



The Royal Navy Task Force sails south.



RFA Sir Galahad burns after being hit by three 1,000 lb bombs, delivered by Argentinian A-4 Skyhawks in dive attacks.



A column of 45 Royal Marine Commandos march towards Port Stanley.



Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Jones VC OBE, killed in action during the Battle of Goose Green. He was posthumously awarded the VC for his actions as commanding officer of 2 Battalion, Parachute Regiment.