

# Falklands War – 25th anniversary

Twenty five years ago, Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in an action it considered as reoccupation of its own territory. Britain, which saw it as an invasion of a British dependency, recaptured the islands within 74 days. 645 Argentinians, 255 British, and three Falkland Islanders lost their lives

► **Apr 2, 1982:** Argentine troops invade Falkland Islands on orders of head of military junta, General **Leopoldo Galtieri**

► **Apr 3:** Argentine troops seize island of South Georgia

► **Apr 5:** British naval task force sets sail with 65 ships and 15,000 personnel

► **Apr 12:** Britain declares 200-mile exclusion zone around Falkland Islands



► **Apr 22:** British warships including aircraft carriers **Hermes** and **Invincible** reach Falkland waters

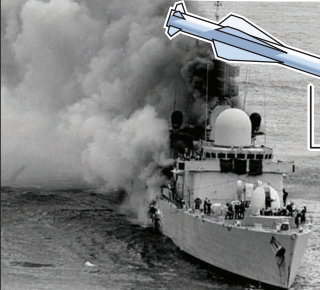
► **Apr 25:** Small British force retakes South Georgia. Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher** calls on Britain to "Rejoice!"

► **Apr 26:** President **Ronald Reagan** declares U.S. support for Britain

► **May 1:** British **Vulcan** bombers attack Stanley airport after 4,000-mile flight from Ascension Island

► **May 3:** In most controversial action of war, British submarine **HMS Conqueror** torpedoes Argentine cruiser **General Belgrano** (right), 30 miles outside war zone.

323 crewmen die. Britain claims hit was made in self-defence



► **May 4:** Argentinian **Exocet** missile sinks British destroyer **HMS Sheffield** (above), killing 22

► **May 14:** SAS raid on Pebble Island destroys 11 enemy aircraft



ARGENTINA



BRITAIN

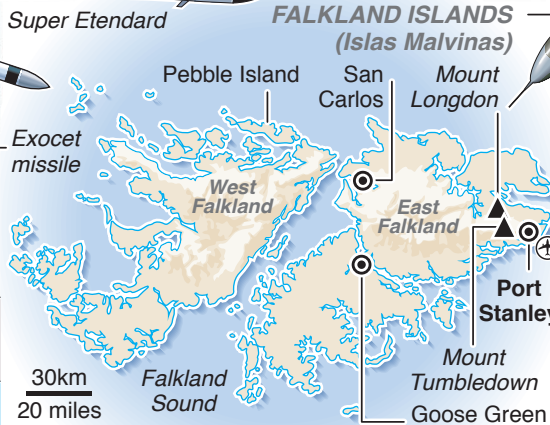
ATLANTIC OCEAN

Gibraltar

Ascension Island

South Georgia

**Avro Vulcan:** Carried out longest bombing mission then on record



► **May 20:** UN peace talks fail

► **May 21:** British troops establish beachhead at San Carlos – **HMS Ardent** sunk

► **May 23:** **HMS Antelope** bombed, detonating ship's magazines (left). 22 Argentine aircraft destroyed in three days



► **May 25:** **HMS Coventry** and container ship **MV Atlantic Conveyor** sunk

► **May 28:** British 2nd Parachute Regiment takes Goose Green. 150 Argentine and 18 British troops – including **Lt. Colonel "H" Jones** – killed in assault

► **Jun 8:** Around 200 British soldiers killed or injured as supply ships **Sir Galahad** and **Sir Tristram** bombed

► **Jun 11-13:** Mount Longdon and Mount Tumbledown taken by British forces after hand-to-hand fighting

► **Jun 14:** Argentine garrison at Port Stanley surrenders

► **June 17:** General Galtieri resigns

► **June 20:** Hostilities formally cease

Sources: MoD, Gen. Belgrano Association

Pictures: AP

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