

THE INVASION

■ **Oct 1981:** New *British Nationality Act* receives royal assent. Under Act, Falkland Islanders would lose full British citizenship, suggesting to Argentina's ruling military junta that Britain will not fight for **Falklands – Islas Malvinas**

■ **Jan 1982:** Junta leader General **Leopoldo Galtieri** (below) decides to invade



■ **Mar 2:** British embassy in Buenos Aires alerts London that invasion is imminent, but Foreign Office advises Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher** (above) to dismiss warning

■ **Apr 2: Invasion begins.** Thatcher determined to retake Falkland Islands

■ **Apr 3: South Georgia invaded**

■ **Apr 5:** British Task Force of 65 ships – including 31 warships and 15,000 personnel – sets sail

■ **Apr 21-Jun 14:** War claims 255 British and 645 Argentine lives. Three islanders also die

■ **Jun 14:** Brig-Gen. **Mario Menendez**, commander of Argentine forces, surrenders

■ **Jun 17: Galtieri resigns**

Falklands War revisited

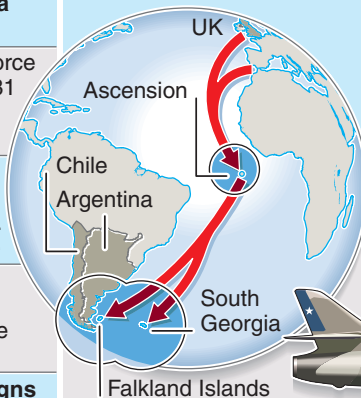
Operation Rosario, the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands in 1982, was based on a plan drawn up in the 1960s. A quarter century after the conflict, eye-witness accounts and leaked documents have helped to reveal a fresh perspective on the war



THE BELGRANO

■ **May 2:** Argentinian cruiser **General Belgrano** is sunk by British submarine **HMS Conqueror**, killing 323 crew. It later emerges that prime minister changed rules of

engagement of submarine task force TF324 in order for attack to take place. Thatcher insists ship was a threat, but leaked secret documents reveal Belgrano had been sighted a day earlier than officially reported and was steaming away from Task Force when it was sunk. In 2005, cruiser's Captain Héctor Bonzo confirms his mission was to attack British ships



JETS TO CHILE

■ Chile supplies Britain with intelligence and use of remote airstrips, enabling RAF reconnaissance aircraft



and British special forces to operate behind enemy lines. In return Britain breaks global arms embargo on Chile, selling Gen. **Augusto Pinochet** (above) 12 Hawker Hunter FGA.Mk 9s. These aircraft are transported to Chile in April, May and November, using U.S. transport planes



VULCAN 607

■ **Apr 29, 1982:** Five specially modified Avro Vulcan bombers arrive at Ascension, 3,886 miles from Falklands

■ **May 1: Vulcan 607** bombs Port Stanley airport. During 15-hour, 45-minute mission Vulcan is refuelled 16 times

U.S. SUPPORT

■ Reagan administration is split over backing Britain. UN Ambassador **Jeanne Kirkpatrick** favours CIA support for Galtieri while Secretary of State **Alexander Haig** and Secretary of Defence **Caspar Weinberger** support Britain. **Queen Elizabeth II** later bestows honorary knighthood on Weinberger (right) for supplying U.S. air-to-air missiles

