

Falklands War – 30 years on

In 1982, Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in an action it considered as reoccupation of its own territory. Britain saw it as an invasion of a British dependency, and recaptured the islands within 74 days. 645 Argentinian and 255 British troops, and three 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

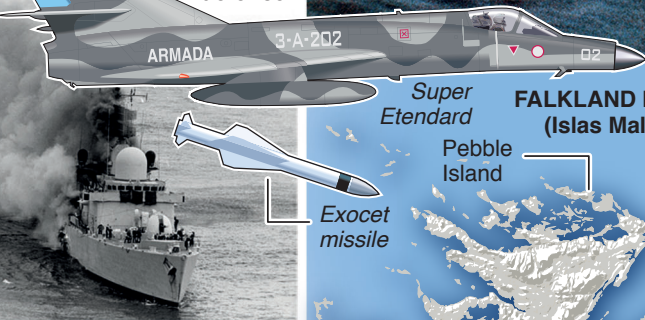
Apr 22: British warships, including aircraft carriers **Hermes** and **Invincible**, reach Falkland waters

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, 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: Argentine **Exocet** missile sinks British destroyer **HMS Sheffield** (above), killing 22

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



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



BRITAIN



ARGENTINA



Gibraltar

Ascension Island

ATLANTIC OCEAN

South Georgia

Falkland Islands

Avro Vulcan
Carried out longest bombing mission then on record

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: British forces take Mount Longdon and Mount Tumbledown after hand-to-hand fighting

Jun 14: Argentine garrison at Port Stanley surrenders

Jun 17: Galtieri resigns

Jun 20: Hostilities formally cease

