

Falklands War: 40 years on

In 1982 Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, having long claimed sovereignty over the territory. Britain saw it as an invasion of a British dependency and recaptured the islands within 74 days

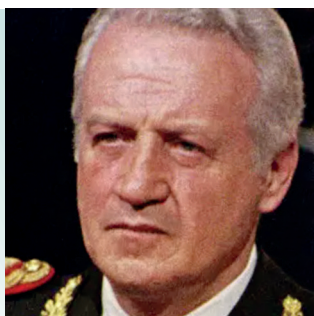
BRITAIN

■ **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



649 Argentinian and 255 British troops, and three islanders lost their lives

Gibraltar

Ascension Island

ARGENTINA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

South Georgia

Falkland Islands

Avro Vulcan Carried out longest bombing mission then on record

■ **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



Super Etendard

FALKLAND ISLANDS
Islas Malvinas

Exocet missile

■ **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



■ **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