

971 AIR MARSHAL SLEMON WING, RCAF  
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

May 2013 Colorado Springs  
[www.971WingAFAC.com](http://www.971WingAFAC.com)



The Konzentrations Lager Buckenwald Club  
See below:

## Social Calendar

Apr 01 This 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner for our 971 Wing was enjoyed by 55 of us. We thank Darrell Levitt, Paul Ellis, Art Nielsen, Valerie Freimuth, Jim Berwick, and Dave Bristow for making it all possible. Representing the 114 Canadians at NORAD HQ here Colonel Henrik Smith was guest speaker while LCmdr Bonita Mason, RCN, was the officiating chaplain. Henrik summarized the history of the RCAF, reaching back to the over 20,000 Canadians who volunteered for the RFC and RNAS, providing the world's second highest number of top air aces (8 after Germany's 17) in WWI.

May Judy and Lew Lomas will host. Date and time to be advised.

May 27 **Memorial Day:** 1100 (1030 for easy parking). Retired Enlisted Association, east off Murray.  
Dress: As usual, blazers, grey slacks, medals, and headdress. If no blazer, business attire.

June 29 (Tentative) 1500 at Rich Graham's and Fran Matavi's

July 20 1500 at Charlene's

**OUR BUCHENWALD FLYERS:** Thanks to our Bob Johnson of Sherkston, ON, I am now corresponding with Ed Carter-Edwards of Smithville, ON. About 0130 on 08 June 1944, Ed was en route in his Halifax to bomb Acherer, near Paris, when a nightfighter raked them from underneath setting the aircraft on fire. Two of the 7-man crew survived and Ed found refuge with the French underground only to become one of 168 downed airmen (82 US, 48 UK, 26 Canadian, 9 Australian, 2 NZ, 1 Jamaican) who, while in custody of the Resistance were betrayed by Jacques Desoubrie to the Gestapo who concentrated them in Fresnes Prison, Paris. After our March 1944 Great Escape, when our air offensive was really hurting, Hitler issued harsh new rules that included shot-down enemy airmen captured in civilian clothes supplied by the Resistance could be shot. But, on 15 Aug this group was packed into boxcars for the 5-day journey to Buchenwald where they were totally shaven, denied shoes, and forced to sleep outside in a sub-camp. The 168 were quick to organize themselves and pledge lifetime solidarity. Two died of health problems before, in Oct 44, the Luftwaffe found them there and had them delivered to Luft III. Bob Taylor, RAF, designed a pin that featured a winged, chained, bare foot. But, it was not until 1979 that 4 of the RCAF group sparked a concerted effort to locate all 166. They found 140 and organized reunions. Willie Walaldersm, RCAF, wrote a 36-line poem, "A Reflection" and a book "168 Jump Into Hell" was published in Victoria among many others in the UK and US. Of the 26 Canadians only 4 are still alive.

## UNWOUNDED COMBAT VETERANS DO NOT EXIST!

I can certainly vouch for this conclusion summarized in *the March 2013 issue of The Lancet (UK)* from extensive studies in the UK, US, and Australia. Whether you have been a giver or a receiver of violence, or both, you have been traumatized and are subject to abnormal behaviour including a 53% enhancement of any tendency you may harbour for violence. As I can speak only for my own inner feelings, bear with me.

It is now 68 years since my last exposure to combat and I do feel I have been successful in controlling my emotions that still run deeply. Over the years, from time to time, painful visions have flooded back, leaving pain as they slowly subside. Strange, the 50-odd times I have been in a universe of exploding flak, flying bullets, and bombs leave no lasting pain. What does are visions of the 17 times I have caused death and destruction to others. Most of my bombing and mining operations were during the nights of the cold winter months.

Increasingly, during these current cold winter nights when I pull back the covers to slip into a warm bed, visions assail me of people drowning in the cold North Sea from ships my mines sank plus visions of poorly-clad families forced, wounded and bleeding, out of their homes, wrecked by my bombs, into the snow with no heat, no water, no food, no sewage, no warm shelter, no tampax - all pitiful victims of man's inhumanity to man. All 24 Hamburg civilians who captured me were survivors of my previous bombings, yet all were friendly, considerate, and helpful. Then, accompanying my current visions, there are those feelings of returning butterflies that used to swarm in my stomach those scores of days I would try to build up the frame of mind to accept departing at dusk friendly skies. Usually, back then, intense gunfire would quiet them but more often they would continue to flutter for hours after foul weather would cancel at the last moment the operation we had planned for all day.

People tell me I was a hero, protecting our freedoms so we can create future wars. I appreciate their concerns, especially with the 125 valued friends who did not, as I did, survive being shot down. Their concerns will never help when it comes to those I have killed or hurt. That is something I have to deal with alone.

So, has combat changed me and if so how? My formative high-school years assailed me with hostile truths. I had been born into a temporary world into a form that required a constant hunt for energy sources to keep us alive. Only air and water were inorganic. For all other energy we had to kill and digest other life forms several times daily. We humans were all trapped not only by that but by our collective stupidity. Every day I could see in my small town the ravages of the Boer War and WWI and how many of my school mates had the burden of caring for mentally and/or physically wounded fathers. The rise of dictators in Germany, Italy, and Japan were a huge worry to us who were rapidly approaching combat age. We had enough German and Italian immigrants to know they were basically nice people and that Hitler, as knowledge of increasing Concentration Camps confirmed, was a scourge on them as well as on us. We also suffered a sense of guilt that our wrong and vindictive Treaty of Versailles was a major cause of his rise.

War came in 1939. Our backs were to the wall, so our sleek Fairey Battles, Hurricanes, Spitfires, as well as our uglier bombers were beautiful to us as well as an escape from the horrors of trenches so burned into our minds. As our role changed from hunted to hunter and as we became POWs views changed. In Nürnberg, the admired Mosquito became dreaded as night after night it caused shock, heat, and noise waves to engulf us and, in a München rail-yard to come within inches of transferring me and a trainload of POWs locked in box cars into the next world. I cringe today when I see a Thunderbolt after 9 of them made a total of 27 passes at hundreds of us POWs fleeing across open fields from stopped box cars. Ugly engines grew in size as their wings erupted in fire, spitting 50-calibre slugs at us, shredding the Australian next to me. Then I can add all that Soviet, German, and US artillery that sought me out. The ruins I tramped through in blitzed British cities were terrifying but those in Germany and France were much, much more soul-destroying.

All this has seared me with a hatred of guns and thus revulsion with Gun Lobbyists in Congress and immense compassion for all those innocent and luckless youths sent to suffer and die in far off desolations - and for all those victims of domestic violence. I remain an enemy of the NRA which, to me, is an enemy of the USA along with Eisenhower's military-industrial complex and to politicians allowing money and ulterior motives to influence the pursuit of military rather than diplomatic approaches to disputes which are bound to increase with exploding populations, climate change, and dwindling resources. Science, Environmental Concern, Common Sense, Rights for all Living Things - we need all of you working together for a measure of contentment in a hostile and indifferent universe.

**THE 2013 CANAM GOLF TOURNAMENT** will be held on Friday, 21 Jun 2013 at the Silver Spruce Golf Club on Peterson AFB.

Anticipate a 0830hrs "Shot Gun" start with a luncheon and presentation of awards at the Golf Course Club House following the round of golf.

Cost and registration details to follow. I will advise the tournament organizer to reserve a minimum of two teams for 971 Wing.

Call or email questions to Brad MacAskill, 573-7895, [bradley\\_mac@falconbroadband.net](mailto:bradley_mac@falconbroadband.net)

**THE WORLD'S FIRST QUANTUM COMPUTER:** D-Wave of Burnaby, B.C. made its first quantum computer sale to Lockheed Martin in 2011. While research is ongoing into the spooky world of entanglement, particularly at the Adiabatic Quantum Computing (AQC) in London, UK, indications are that D-Wave has achieved a means of harnessing entanglement (Qubits once entangled remain so no matter how far apart they travel) and that the door has been opened to formidable computing with Amazon and the CIA among those investing in D-Wave that uses a heavily chilled superconductive array of qubits. I will explain all this to you - if I ever understand it myself.

**SUDBURY NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY: (SNO).** After a May 1999 - Nov 2006 neutrino study, the SNOLab shut down for extensions and improvements. It re-opened again in May 2012 for supernova studies, but continues to work on accumulated neutrino data, 6,800 feet or about 2 km down the Creighton mine, opened in May 1999 with a 6-metre radius acrylic vessel holding 1,000 tonnes of heavy water and with 9,600 photomultiplier tubes, a collaboration of 5 Canadian, 3 US, and 1 UK universities plus 7 other entities. The first results in Jun 2001 revealed that neutrinos can oscillate and transmute into one another travelling the sun with a mass barely above zero so have no problem zipping through us in their trillions.

**HMCS TORONTO** made, 29 March 2013, the largest drug seizure, valued at \$100 million, in the Indian Ocean-Arabian Sea area of responsibility. Spotting a suspicious vessel and rapidly launching

a boarding party that found 500 kilograms before the crew could dispose of it.

It is believed the destruction of this find will be a major loss to Al Qaeda - Taliban finances.

**CAMELS EVOLVED ON ELLESMERE ISLAND?** It does make sense. Fossils have been found dating to 3.5 million years ago. That large hump on camels, 30% larger than their closest relative today, the Dromedary of Arabia, would have been ideal for storing fat over harsh winters, their wide, padded feet work on snow as well as on sand and wetlands, and the camels' ability to see in the dark would have been a blessing during the dark winter months. A team led by Natalia Rybcznski of the Canadian Museum of Nature found the first camel fossils in 2006. Canadian Geographic. April 2013.

**DANISH MAERTZ AND THE TRIPLE E:** No harbour in this hemisphere nor the widened Panama Canal can handle it, but in June the Maertz line will accept the first of 20 new container ships to ply between Shanghai and Hong Kong and Algeciras, Felixstowe, Bremerhaven, and Rotterdam via Suez. The ships can carry 18,000 20-foot containers and are 400 metres long, 59 wide, and 73 high with a top speed of 25 knots (43 kmph). The ratio of emissions of CO2 to transport 1 tonne: air 540, truck 47, rail 18, Triple E 3. Older ships will be retired.

**FATHER TIME SUMMONED ME FOR A TALK.** He is a blunt old codger, telling me that I have hogged the newsletter slot much too long when others are longing for the chance to expound on subjects wide and far. He reminds me that I have failed to establish the debating forum I wanted when I accepted the chore in 1986. Besides, the need for, or interest in, a newsletter does not warrant the effort.

So, I agreed with Father Time to start by leaving the July newsletter to whomever wants it. If no one does it will not make history's pages.

If the Membership decides what it wants, I could either retire or tag along as a member of a group, committee, editorial board, or what have you?

# THE TALIBAN DON'T WAVE by Robert Semrau

John Wiley & Sons, Mississauga, Ontario, 2012, 291 pages



A disturbing account! Captain Robert Semrau was in Macedonia with a UK Parachute Regiment, 11 Sep 2001, and he was among those selected for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and sent to Bagram AFB 07 Jan 02. En route to Kabul they encountered extreme poverty, despair, stench, and most buildings bombed out by Afghan factions after the Soviets left a much tidier scene. In Kabul the ISAF were asked to guard a soccer “Peace” match. A riot broke out when the populace found the stadium, where the Taliban had staged its executions, was restricted to government lackeys. The Afghan police pushed people to their deaths over the top wall and crashed skulls with rifle butts.

This book is mainly about Semrau’s 2<sup>nd</sup> tour, Aug-Dec 2008, in Kandahar in which he served at various Forward Operations Bases (FOBs) with the Van Doos after relieving the Princess Pats. A Canadian Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) of 5, headed by a captain, was with each group of about 35 Afghan National Army (ANA) of which there were usually two at an FOB. Daily except Fridays they would conduct 2 patrols with the first one starting off an hour before daylight in freezing temperatures that would climb to 40C (105F), making their heavy kits a real burden, more so when, loaded with sweat, they had to stay in the field overnight. Each evening the ten Canadians would fabricate tomorrow’s plans, then the two captains walked over to the abodes of the ANA captains for input while generous with praise, to win hearts and minds.

Semrau is very honest in describing even superiors, always with inventive language, but then he gives them false names. The Taliban were known as “Timothy”. ANA soldiers were “Mushrooms” as they were kept in the dark, frequently harshly kicked for errors by their own captains. Good NATO-subsidized pay for ANA ceased on becoming a casualty and with no love for the corrupt Karzai government, out of groups of 35, it was lucky to get 15-20 show up for patrols. Often, by talking, smoking, or showing themselves they would give the game away while awaiting the Taliban in ambush spots. When they had had enough they would just leave and return to base for a meal. Yet, they could show incredible heroism. Under heavy mortar fire and heavy casualties an ANA captain dragged up an anti-tank gun that needed to be mounted in a truck, exposing himself to shoulder-fire 2 rounds, killing 7 Taliban and wounding others causing them to break off the attack. With only 2 weeks of first aid during basic training, Semrau became a surgeon stuffing back body parts into cavities and restitching, ending a day covered in caked blood from head to toe. Wounded ANA and Taliban were treated like Canadians. A few days later in a similar action Semrau found a Taliban with a big hole in his stomach and screaming in pain as the blood poured out of him. With no chance to live Semrau made a mercy killing to relieve him of pain. Four months later he was to be put on trial for murder by a prosecution and jury back in Canada that had never seen combat.

The title of the book comes from one day on patrol when they bunched up to get over a low spot in a farmer’s high mud fence. Just then a USAF Apache appeared and started to do a strafing run on them. Semrau screamed through his interpreter: “Stay put, do not run. Wave, Wave. Wave! - the Taliban don’t wave!” The helicopter, at the last moment, veered away. Semrau was to have several similar incidents and saved many lives by having all practised in waving.

At night the Canadian snipers manning the FOB tower with their night sites could see Taliban planting explosive devices in the road. Semrau had to get wireless approval to fire from a major back in Kandahar who, terrified a farmer might be hit, refused every request during his tour. This meant Semrau had to risk the lives of his group in the morning to find, dig up, and explode the explosives. This major’s replacement told Semrau a 51% assurance that Afghans digging in the road at 0300 were Taliban was enough for him.

The book has many more incidents until Dec 08 when a group arrived to return him to Petawawa under arrest for murder on his 18 Oct mercy killing. After a very lengthy trial he was reduced one rank and discharged 07 Jan 2011, much to the disgust of many including Maj-Gen (ret’d) Lewis Mackenzie who wrote the foreword to this book.

#### DETAILS OF THE SIX CANADIANS SHOT AFTER THE GREAT ESCAPE, 24/25 March 1944

There is an amazing number of “youngsters” world wide doing considerable research on the Great Escape, and your scribe is fortunate in being in correspondence with a dozen of them. The latest receipt is a study by James Castle of East Sussex of 200 who worked for the Escape Committee. This is too massive for this newsletter, but here are details of the six Canadians who were among the 50 executed:

BIRKLAND	Henry	Age 25, Calgary, F/L Pilot, J5233, 72 Squadron RAF, Spitfire, MiD, Shot down 07 Nov 1941, St. Omer, France, by fighters. Recaptured in Kalkbrugh, Poland. Shot 31 Mar 44 by Breslau Gestapo. Cremated in Leignitz.
KIDDER	Gordon Arthur	Age 26, St. Catharines, Ontario, BA, UofT, Fluent in German, French, Spanish which he taught in Luft III. F/L Navigator, J10177, 156 RAF Squadron, Wellington, MiD. Shot down into the sea by flak 13 October 1942, on Pathfinder operation over Kiel, Germany. Two of 5 survived in dinghy until rescued by German minesweeper. On escape teamed with Kirby-Green, took train to Breslau for Czech connection. Recaptured near Vsetin, Czechoslovakia. Tortured then shot 29 Mar 44 by Brno Gestapo Erich Zacharias who post war was hung by the British. Kidder and Green the only two of the Great Escape tortured before execution.
LANGFORD	Patrick Wilson	Age 24, Victoria, BC, F/L, WAG, J1631, MiD, Shot down 28 July 1942 in a Wellington from 16 OTU, Upper Heyford. Target Hamburg. Cremated in Leignitz, 31 Mar. Trap door expert, able to replace and camouflage in 20 seconds.
McGILL	George Edward	Age 25, Toronto, F/L Observer J512, 103 RAF Squadron, Elsham Wolds, Wellington, Shot down 10 January 1942, target Wilhelmshaven. Executed on road by Breslau Gestapo. Cremated in Leignitz.
WERNHAM	James Chrystall,	F/L. Observer, age 27, Winnipeg, Shot down 09 June 1942, Halifax, 425 RCAF Sqn, Pocklington. Target: Essen, Ruhr. Recaptured on train. Executed near Hirschberg, Poland, 30 Mar. This escape slot was earned by F/O Wally MacCaw who gave it to willing Wernham on being overwhelmed by a premonition of death.
WILEY,	George William:	Age 23. Kittyhawk Pilot, J2743, 123 RAF Sqn, Windsor, Ontario, shot down 07 Oct 43, El Daba, Egypt. Broke leg in crash. Executed with 5 other escapers at Halbau by firing squad.

MORE STORIES THAT NEED TO BE TOLD: Enid White, widow of Vern and continued recipient of our newsletters, has submitted this tale of internment by the Japanese. A fellow POW and former editor of the 427 Squadron Association Newsletter, and also from Port Hope, Ontario, Vern contributed articles to our newsletters over the years from Oakville, Ontario, prior to his 29 Dec 2008 death.:

My son-in-law's sister and her husband, Michiel Roell, live in Vancouver. Michiel has not been well so my son-in-law sent him a copy of Vern's WWII book, “Four Years and a Bit” to read. I got a lovely letter back saying how much he enjoyed it and how he wished he had written a summary of his experience as a child spending three years in a Japanese camp during WWII. I replied that I was very interested so he sent me clippings which were hard to read but fascinating as they tie in with Cobourg and Trinity College School (TCS) in Port Hope.

Jonkleer Roell came from a prominent family in Holland. His mother was Wilhelmina, Baroness Van Boetzlaer of Utrecht. His wife was the granddaughter of Senator William Kerr of Cobourg. With their two sons, Peter, age 11 and Michiel, age 9, they were running a rubber plantation in Sumatra when the Japanese arrived uninvited. Their home, on a lovely estate, was demolished. Jonkleer Roell was sent to Camp Tai, Indo China. He was forced to

work on the railroad through the jungle including the famed Bridge over the River Kwai on which 60,000 out of 70,000 workers died. When Peter reached 12 he was sent to an adult work camp.

For Madame Roell and her younger son, the ration of food was one small bowl of rice per day. The mother gave some of her food to Michiel and when they were finally liberated she weighed 84 pounds. What is truly amazing is that she lived to be 101 years of age.

The clippings, that show a handsome and happy family before war hit them, bring tears to my eyes. Even now we have not learned to get along with one another. I am so grateful to live in such a safe and great country.

Jonkleer Roell survived and, on his release, joined his family in Singapore where Madam Roell had flown with her two boys on the outbreak of the native revolution in Java and Sumatra, opposing the return of Dutch rule. The Roells, then went to Ceylon, to India, to Glasgow, to London, and then to Canada via New York.

Uncles of the boys, Donald Macdonald of Vancouver, Sqn Ldr Garth Macdonald, of Ottawa, and Lt. D'Arcy Kerr Macdonald, all went to TCS. Some, if not all, were POW's in Germany. The boys also went to TCS.

### **LIFE'S WINTER - Submitted by Patti Spencer**

Father Time moving quickly, catches us unaware of the passing years. It seems yesterday that I was young, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and grey...they move slower and I see older persons now. Some are in better and some worse shape than I am...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is showing and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we would be. Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Because if I do not on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit! And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, now that winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...that when it is over on this earth...it is over. A new adventure will begin! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I had not done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I am happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime. So, if you are not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you want to accomplish in your life do it quickly! Do not put things off. Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today. You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done in all the years past!! "Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. Remember: It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. LIVE HAPPY. Today is the oldest you have ever been, yet the youngest you will ever be, so enjoy the day while it lasts. Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect! Going out is good. Coming home is better! You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!

You realize you are never going to be really good at anything. The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you do not care to do them anymore. You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep". You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch. You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?" ... ??? Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere. You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!! What used to be freckles are now liver spots. Everybody whispers. You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear. But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!! Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter that tells what kind of Life you have lived.

# The Falkland Islands



It is sad that it often takes unprovoked military aggression to stiffen our spines, to make us forget the comforts of materialism, and to create out of quarrelsome factions a minor miracle of efficiency, improvisation, and flexibility. It is also sad that history is often twisted for national aims. The Argentines believe passionately that the Falkland Islands are theirs, and the corrupt military regime of President Leopoldo Galtieri, that was responsible for the disappearance of 8,960 Argentines in a supposed crackdown on communism, used nationalism to remove scrutiny from internal problems and to excite the population in a crusade to rescue the "Malvinas". Well, let us take a look at history:

- 1592: These uninhabited, wind-swept, treeless islands are discovered by John Davys, followed in 1594 by another Englishman, Sir Richard Hawkins, who explored the coasts.
- 1598: Sebald van Weerdt of Holland visits several of the islands.
- 1690: Britain's Captain John Strong explores the islands, naming them after Viscount Falkland, treasurer of the Royal Navy. Later, French mariners named them "Les Isles Malouines" which the Spanish changed to "Islas Malvinas".
- 1764: De Bougainville founded a French settlement on East Falkland.
- 1765: John Byron establishes a British settlement at Port Egmont, Saunders Island, West Falkland.
- 1766: Spain forces the French to sell out and the British to leave under protest.
- 1771: Britain regains her settlement, but leaves it in 1774, keeping sovereignty.
- 1829: Spain is impotent under Napoleon's occupation, so Creoles in Spanish America revolt. Buenos Aires is dominant in the Viceroyalty de la Plata and, after much in-fighting, sets up a republic from which Paraguay (1814), Bolivia (1825), and Uruguay (1828) break away. Dictator Juan Manuel de Rosas of Buenos Aires sends Louis Vernet to colonize the Falklands.
- 1831: Vernet seizes 3 U.S. sealing ships. The U.S. Navy retaliates by destroying his settlement, and sending the settlers back to Buenos Aires.
- 1833: Britain re-establishes her colony, and civil administration in 1841.
- 1914: A German fleet of five ships attacks the Falklands, but were surprised by eight British ships that sink all German attackers.
- 1945: The U.K. seeks closer ties with Argentina without giving up the right of self determination of the Kelpers (Falklanders). Argentina wants sovereignty and refuses the U.K.'s offer for International Court of Justice arbitration.
- 1977: The appointed British mediators, in the Beagle Channel islands dispute, rule that they belong to Chile. Argentina threatens war. The Pope becomes mediator.
- 1982: The UK, with mounting defence expenditures in NATO, withdraws further from policing the remnants of empire, and plans to scrap numerous naval ships.
- 02 Apr: With the last British ship, *The Endurance*, out of the area, Galtieri invades the Falklands, seizing them from the token force of 84 Royal Marines.
- 03 Apr: Argentine forces seize South Georgia. Margaret Thatcher breaks diplomatic relations, and starts organizing British forces to retake the islands.
- 05 Apr: A 40-ship armada leaves Portsmouth and Gibraltar for the staging base being set up on

Ascension Island. U.S. military strategists argue that the U.K., that can muster at most 8,500 men against 15,000 Argentines, has no chance of victory as an invading force needs at least a 3 to 1 advantage. The Commonwealth and the European Economic Community impose sanctions, and the U.N. orders Argentina to evacuate. Talks fail to budge Argentina.

- 20 Apr: The British retake South Georgia, rescuing two British women who had continued their penguin study (later to be featured in a BBC Survival film) unknown to the Argentines who lost a submarine and a helicopter.
- 02 May: HMS Conqueror torpedoes the cruiser General Belgrano; 368 killed. Two days later an Argentine Super Etendard fires two exocet missiles at the aircraft carrier Hermes and the destroyer HMS Sheffield. Sheffield sunk, 20 killed.
- 14 May: British special forces raid Pebble Island, West Falkland, destroying 11 Argentine aircraft.
- 21 May: British forces land at Port San Carlos, using among troop carriers the luxury liners Canberra and Queen Elizabeth. British lose to air attacks the Ardent, Antelope, Coventry, and the Atlantic Conveyor loaded with helicopters. Argentines lose a third of the attacking force for no loss to British Harrier jets. RAF Vulcans, with 17 in-flight refuelings, bomb the airfield at Port Stanley, but runway craters soon filled in sufficient for C-130 Hercules if not fast jets.
- 28 May The popular L/C H. Jones killed leading a British charge, but the next day at Goose Green 450 British troops take 1,200 Argentine prisoners.
- 14 Jun General Menendez in Port Stanley surrenders. Total British losses were 255 dead and 777 wounded. The Argentines had 1,000 dead and 14,000 taken prisoner. The British repatriated the prisoners via Uruguay.

The amazing and rapid British victory, 8,000 miles (13,000 km) from home, was due to superb training, organization, and aggressiveness. Speed and determination saved many lives that a protracted war would have taken. On 8 Jan 1983, Margaret Thatcher, with husband Denis, arrived unannounced for a 5-day visit to the islands. During the fray 22-year-old Prince Andrew served as a helicopter pilot.

The cost of standing up for the principle that 1,800 people have the right of self determination has been high. The 14-week war cost the U.K. £750 million plus another £1 billion to replace losses, plus £232 million per year to rebuild and extend island accommodation and industry and to sustain a 4,000 man garrison and an RAF squadron to deter future aggression. A year after victory the immense job of finding and clearing widespread Argentine plastic mines continued. Some 3,000 Britons have applied to emigrate to the Falklands, but new housing is needed first. The first contract, for 54 new homes, was let in 1982. Ten Canadians who had settled in the islands to escape super-power confrontation up north returned to Canada. Two have now moved back to the islands.

President Raul Alfonsin, who took office 10 Dec 83, reduced the power of the Argentine military and court martialled General Leopoldo Galtieri, Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, and Admiral Jorge Anaya. He opened investigations over the disappearance of 8,960 people during the military regime, and he settled the Beagle Channel dispute peacefully with Chile. He has a \$46.3 billion external debt to wrestle with. In late 1986 the U.K. *Economist* lauded him highly. However, negotiations to re-establish good U.K.- Argentina relations remain difficult due to Argentine insistence on sovereignty over the islands. The Argentines tend to blame the military for losing the war rather than for starting it.

By 1992 the population which had fallen from 2,400 to 1,800 in 1980 had risen to 2,563 by 2012. Oil discovery should bring in a tax revenue of \$10.5 billion over 25 years, parts of which will be used to reimburse the UK for the \$90 million it spends annually protecting the islanders from another invasion.

New roads and a new school were being built, and a modern telephone system installed. The new British military base at Mount Pleasant costs £61 million per year, manned by over 2,000 men. Fishing licenses for illex and loligo squid to Japan, S. Korea, Taiwan, Poland, Italy, Spain, and Portugal bring in £27 million per year, two thirds of the colony's operating revenue, but recent oil discoveries promise to provide \$10.5 billion in tax revenue over 25 years. The Islanders plan to repay the UK the costs of their protection. Argentina claims this is all theirs, refuses any voice to the Kippers, arguing the issue is solely between Argentina and the UK and has even asked Pope Francis to intervene on their behalf while, in January 2013, the Kippers voted 99% to remain British.