



40 YEARS AGO HMS ANTRIM WAS AT WAR

'It is upon the Navy, under the providence of God, that the safety, honour and welfare of this realm do chiefly depend.'

Attributed to King Charles II 1630-1685, the precise wording variously amended and appeared as the preamble to the Naval Discipline Act 1866, which in turn traces the sentiments from previous Acts starting in 1661. Also the preamble to the Articles of War. It is etched across the façade of BRNC Dartmouth, the Naval Officers' training college in Dartmouth.

THE FALKLANDS WAR

Why was there a war in 1982?

For many years both Britain and Argentina have disputed ownership of the Falkland Islands or Islas Malvinas. Britain's claim rests on the landing in 1690 by Captain John Strong who named the islands after Viscount Falkland, and that Britain had administered and populated the islands since 1833.

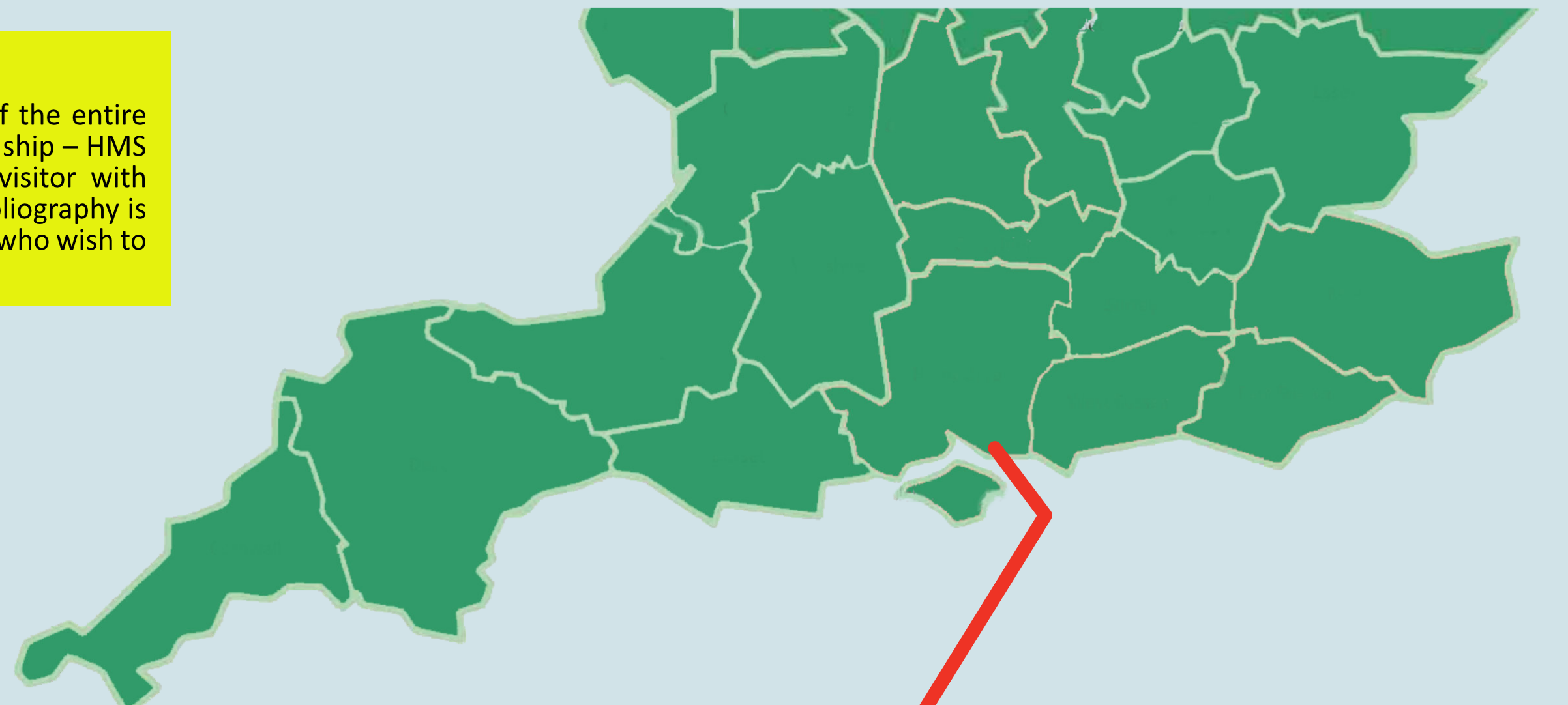
A Spanish claim rests on a French settlement there in 1764 which was bought by the Spanish after independence from Spain in 1816 and thus proclaimed its sovereignty over the Falklands in 1820.

Under UN patronage, talks had been in progress since 1979 about potential leaseback of the Falkland Islands, an unpopular move with Falkland residents. This together with proposed cutbacks in the Royal Navy (losing HMS Endurance, two Landing Ships and an aircraft carrier) led General Galtieri to perceive that Britain was no longer concerned to maintain its Overseas Territories. He also needed to distract them from internal problems. [A common political ruse!] On 2 April 1982 the Argentinians invaded the Falkland Islands.

Throughout April, America (President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Al Haig) and the United Nations (Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar) attempted to broker a number of peace deals, but terms were never acceptable to one party or the other. Ultimately time ran out and an undeclared war commenced. Even then diplomatic efforts continued to no avail.

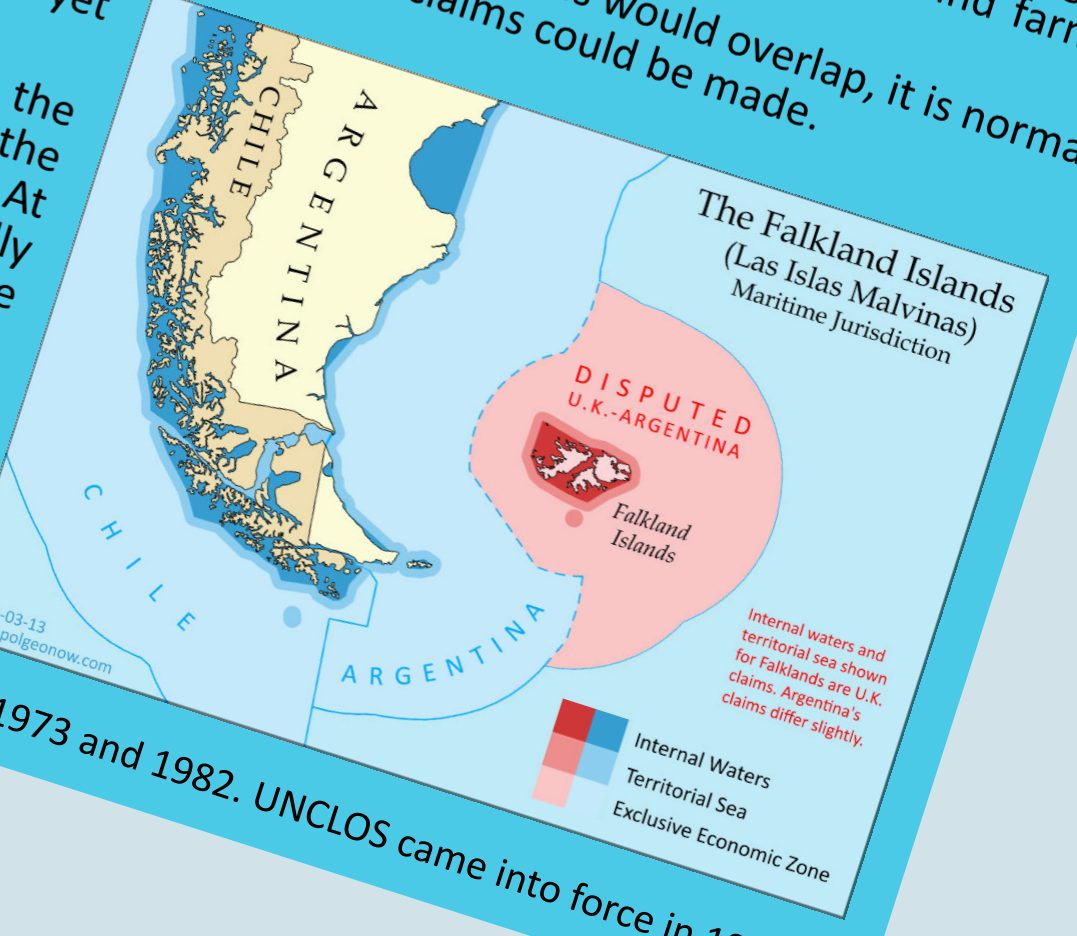
The principal reasons Britain went to war were to recover the islands, protect our people living there and maintain British prestige. Furthermore to have abandoned them would have been considered internationally as a sign that Britain was no longer interested in her Overseas Territories.

Introduction
This exhibition seeks to tell the story, not of the entire Falklands War, but of the part played by one ship – HMS Antrim. We have avoided swamping the visitor with detailed facts, figures and minutiae but a bibliography is shown at the end of the exhibition, for those who wish to learn more.



Time Portsmouth to Port Stanley
Distance: 8425 nm
Speed: 16 knots
Days at sea: 21.9
For planning purposes:
1000miles = 3 days
And 10% fuel per day

An additional reason for retaining the Falklands.
Under UNCLOS* every littoral country (one bordering the sea) is entitled to control over that sea, out to certain distances and conditions. In simple terms, the 'territorial sea' extends 12 miles offshore and within that the country has absolute control over the surface of the sea and ships, down to the seabed and everything under it. There is a further zone extending up to 200 miles called the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) inside which the country has special rights concerning the use of maritime resources (eg fishing) and energy production (eg oil drilling, wind farms, minerals). Where two countries are fewer than 400 miles apart, so that their EEZ boundaries would overlap, it is normal for each to claim half the actual distance that they are apart but shorter claims could be made. The seas around the Falklands are rich in fish and seabed minerals and hydrocarbons, the latter not yet commercially exploited. Because Argentina doesn't recognise the right of the Falklands to belong to Britain, it doesn't recognise the Falklands EEZ or its associated rights outlined above. At present, Argentina is making it politically and financially difficult for third-party countries to explore within the Falklands EEZ. This map shows the two countries' claimed EEZ and the disputed area between them. Note that the Falklands claim a shorter EEZ than the precise 'half distance' between Argentina and the Falklands. *The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is an international agreement which was officially formulated between 1973 and 1982. UNCLOS came into force in 1994.



A 'Just' War

The Falklands war fulfilled the conditions of a Just War. These were originally articulated by St Thomas Aquinas a thousand years ago, and further developed thereafter.

- The war must be declared and controlled by a proper self-defence - and not to acquire wealth or power.
- The war must be fought to promote good or avoid evil, with authority, eg the state or ruler.
- The war must be a last resort when all peaceful solutions the aim of restoring peace and justice after the war is over.
- Further conditions developed later
- The war must be a last resort when all peaceful solutions have been tried and failed, eg negotiation (the peace negotiations had stalled and were not progressing).
- The war should be fought with 'proportionality', with just enough force to achieve victory and only against legitimate targets, ie civilians should be protected.
- The good which is achieved by the war must be greater than the evil which led to the war.

The weather was a considerable influence in the timing of Operation Corporate. There was only a short period during the South Atlantic seasonal weather when a landing with air support could be undertaken with any chance of success. This was an additional pressure on the UK Government when diplomatic solutions dragged on unsuccessfully.



The Task Force comprised of ships from UK and an advance guard from Gibraltar which had been participating in Exercise Springtrain.

- In all, the Task Force comprised 127 ships, consisting of:
- 43 Royal Navy vessels
 - 2 aircraft carriers
 - 2 Landing Platform Dock
 - 8 Destroyers
 - 15 Frigates
 - 2 Patrol vessels
 - 6 Submarines
 - 3 Survey Ships
 - 5 Minesweepers
- 22 from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary
- 10 Tankers
 - 6 Landing Ship Logistic
 - 5 Supply Ships
 - 1 Helicopter Support Ship
- 62 merchant ships.

- 4 RN warships were sunk.
- HMS Sheffield
 - HMS Ardent
 - HMS Antelope
 - HMS Coventry
- 1 RFA LSL was sunk.
- RFA Sir Galahad
- 1 Ship Taken Up From Trade (STUFT) sunk.
- SS Atlantic Conveyor



OPERATION CORPORATE was the codename given to the 1982 British military involvement in the Falkland Islands during the Falklands War. **OPERATION PARQUET** was the code name for the British military operation to recapture the Island of South Georgia from Argentine military control. **OPERATION SUTTON** was the British landings on the shores of San Carlos Water, at Ajax Bay and Port San Carlos, near San Carlos on East Falkland.

Distances
Distances are shown in Nautical Miles, about 2000 yards long, about 1852 metres, as opposed to 1760 yards in a statute (land) mile.

Times
All times quoted in the South Atlantic are GMT, or Zulu time. The local time in the Falklands is 3 hours behind Zulu time, so 0900Z is 0600 in the Falklands/Argentina. All units in the 5 Atlantic kept Zulu time so that there was no confusion between units when comparing events. It also meant that the Task Force had finished breakfast before the Argentines were awake!