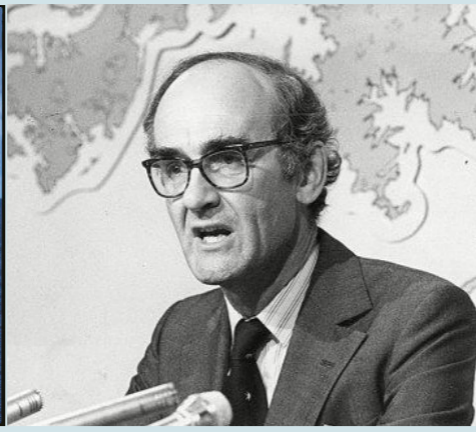




.....Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and her dominions .....

(extract from The Naval Prayer)



HMS Endurance scheduled to be decommissioned in 1981 Defence Review naval cuts by Secretary of State John Nott

17 March HMS Antrim sails from Portsmouth for Exercise Springtrain in Gibraltar areas. Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward embarked



22 March ARA Bahia Buen Suceso lands 39 scrap metal merchants who raise Argentine flag in South Georgia

2 April 1982 Argentine Forces invade Falkland Islands Task Force turns South

3 April 1982 Argentine Forces invade South Georgia

5 April Carrier Group sails from UK

7 April Maritime exclusion zone established around the Falklands

7 April Antrim and Plymouth with RFA Tidespring detached to Ascension Island

10-12 April Anchored off Ascension Island Special Forces and M Coy RM embark

12 April Start of Operation Paraquat (official name), Paraquat (unofficial name)



Shuttle diplomacy. Mar - Apr 82. US Secretary of State AI Haig mediates between Buenos Aires and London.



24 April Argentine Junta rejects final Haig peace proposals

24 April Intelligence received about the presence of submarine Santa Fe. Escort Tidespring north out of Exclusion Zone

23 April Land Special Forces recce party by boat

21/22 April Land and recover Special Forces recce party by helicopter Fortuna Glacier

14 April Rendezvous with HMS Endurance who came up from the south

25 April Santa Fe sighted on the surface leaving Grytviken. Humphrey crippled her with depth charges, helicopters from HM Ships Plymouth, Brilliant and Endurance strafe her as she returns to Grytviken. Ships bombard (NGS) Grytviken hinterland and scratch force of RMs and SFs landed by helicopter. 1705z White flags in Grytviken. 1715z Union Flag and White Ensign hoisted in Grytviken. Argentine garrison surrendered. Argentine senior officers invited to dinner onboard Antrim.



US President Reagan and US Ambassador to UN debate whether to support UK or Argentina Apr 82

26 April Formal surrender signed. 200 Argentine prisoners, one wounded. No British casualties.

27 April Santa Fe moved across the harbour; accidental shooting of CPO Artuso.

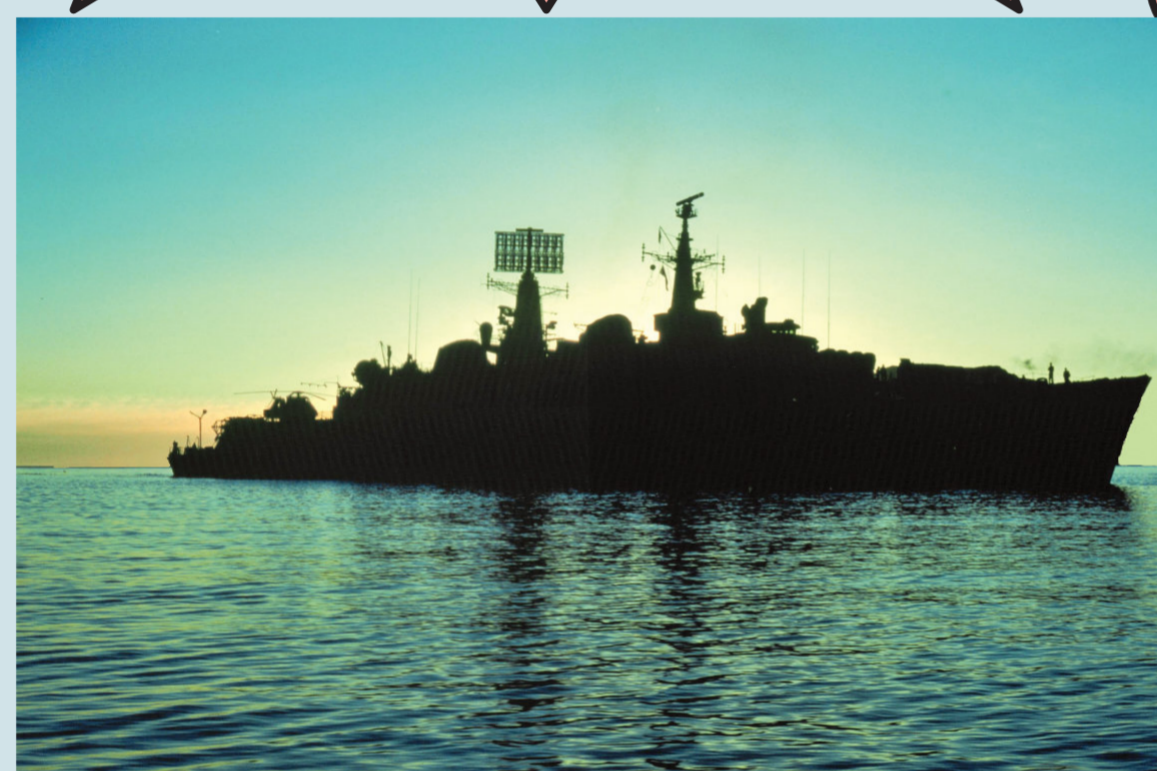
1 May Funeral of CPO Artuso with full military honours.

2 May Op Paraquat completed

2 May Depart for Ascension with Tidespring

2 May Argentine cruiser General Belgrano torpedoed by HMS Conqueror

3 May First mail for 3 weeks received onboard.



20 May Antrim at Action Stations leads HMS Ardent at high speed to be the first ships to enter Falkland Sound

16, 18 May Rendezvous with Amphibious and Carrier Groups respectively.

8 May Disembark own prisoners to Tidespring who continues to Ascension. Antrim collects Landing Ship Group and heads south again

4 May HMS Sheffield fatally hit by Argentine Exocet missile.

21 May Humphrey and another helicopter land Special Forces on Fanning Head. 0320z Enter Falkland Sound. 0452z commence bombarding Fanning Head. 1247z overflown by A4 Skyhawks. 1325z under heavy attack by A4s and Mirage Vs. 1331z struck by 1000lb bomb which failed to explode. Shrapnel casualties and Humphrey damaged. 1500z Bomb Disposal team arrive and work whilst ship under continuing attack. 2014z final air raid. 2258z start lifting bomb up and out of the ship. 2358z bomb lowered into deep water. Antrim leaves the area for repairs.



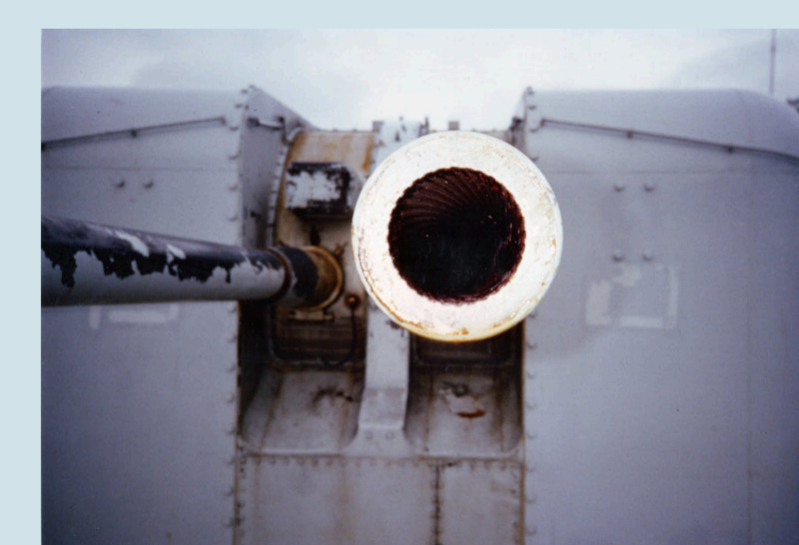
22 May 1500z Secure from Action Stations after 35 hours closed up

25 May R/V with Stena Seaspread for repairs at sea. Coventry and Atlantic Conveyor sunk. Later, Antrim detached for South Georgia and r/v with RMS Queen Elizabeth II on 27 May - embark Major-General Jeremy Moore and staff of 5 Inf Bde and transfer them to HMS Fearless on 29 May.

31 May - Leave the main force for South Georgia and duties as Air Defence Guardship.

12/13 June - 4.5in gun barrel change at anchor.

14 June - Argentine forces surrender in the Falklands.



17 July arrive alongside Portsmouth. Blue skies - tumultuous welcome. HOME

16 July - Commander in Chief Fleet embark off Portland for passage up-channel. Anchor overnight at Spithead

6 July - 100th day since leaving Portsmouth.

29 June - Depart Falkland Islands for UK.

22 June - Brilliant departs for UK. Antrim now the last of the Springtrain ships remaining in theatre.



Margaret Thatcher addresses the ship's company of HMS Antrim off the Falkland Islands in 1983



TIMELINE