

FALKLANDS CONFLICT 1982

BAND OF HM ROYAL MARINES, FLAG OFFICER THIRD FLOTILLA

Bandmaster: Warrant Officer 2 Trevor J Attwood
LRAM ARCM Royal Marines

Embarked in the hospital ship
HMHS UGANDA



Falklands War Timeline: 1982

- April 2 Argentine forces invade the Falkland Islands
First ships of the British Task Force set sail for the South Atlantic
- April 3 South Georgia invaded
- April 9 SS *Canberra* sails from Southampton
- April 12 British introduce a 200-mile exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands
- April 17 RM Band FOF3 embark HMHS *Uganda*
- April 25 South Georgia retaken
- May 1 Stanley airfield bombed
- May 2 ARA General *Belgrano* sunk by submarine *HMS Conqueror*
- May 4 *HMS Sheffield* is hit by an Argentine Exocet missile
- May 14-15 Special forces attack the Argentine base on Pebble Island, destroying 11 aircraft
- May 21 *HMS Ardent* is bombed and sinks next day
- May 23 *HMS Antelope* is bombed and sinks next day
- May 24 18 Argentine aircraft shot down over San Carlos Bay
- May 25 *HMS Coventry* and SS *Atlantic Conveyor* are lost
- May 28 2 Para retake Goose Green
- June 3 Bluff Cove and Fitzroy occupied
- June 8 RFAs *Sir Galahad* and *Sir Tristram* are bombed
- June 11-12 British troops recapture Mounts Harriet, Langdon and Two Sisters
- June 12 *HMS Glamorgan* badly damaged by Exocet missile
- June 13-14 British troops take Tumbledown Mountain, Wireless Ridge and Mount William
- June 14 Argentine forces surrender; Port Stanley is liberated and the white flag flies above the town



Friday, 16 April

03:00 Reveille

03:30 Breakfast

04:00 Depart *HMS Nelson* for RAF Lyneham, arriving 06:15 – 2nd breakfast!

09:00 Depart RAF Lyneham on Hercules bound for Gibraltar. 4.5 hours flight time
– en route, breakfast no 3! On arrival in Gibraltar, transfer to *HMS Galatea*.

Saturday, 17 April

08:15 Drew foul weather gear from *HMS Galatea*, then onto HMHS *Uganda* to help store ship

10:00 Back to *HMS Galatea* to transfer gear to HMHS *Uganda*. Remainder of day spent storing tons of medical supplies and victuals. Shore leave allowed from 19:00 to 23:59.

Sunday, 18 April

08:15 Tour of ship for acquaint, followed by some more storing.

19:00 Secure – leave granted until 23:59

Monday, 19 April

09:12 Departed No 2 Dry dock, Gibraltar. Medical personnel only allowed on upper deck, no RM Band due to Geneva Convention – status not yet clear.

09:40 Clear of harbour

11:05 Passed through Gibraltar Straits

12:00 Temp: 17.0deg C

Military band rehearsal in Music Room

13:25 Commenced practice RAS with RFA ‘OLNA’

15:11 Complete RAS; commenced helicopter operations

16:02 Operations completed, set SW’y course

Tuesday, 20 April

05:00 Passed Cap Blanc

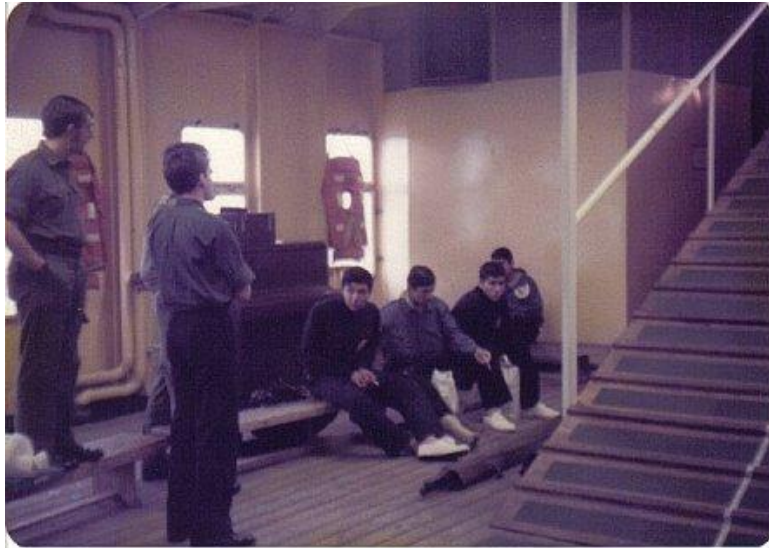
AM Military band rehearsal in Music Room

Wednesday, 21 April

AM Military band rehearsal in Music Room

PM Stretcher bearing exercise – test ramp down from flight deck

17:30 Passed Cabo Bojador



Ramp from flight deck to triage

Thursday, 22 April

- 04:00 Passed Punta Durnford
- 08:30 Military band rehearsal in Music Room
- 10:30 Primary care lecture

Friday, 23 April

- 08:30 Military band rehearsal in Music Room
- 10:30 Medical lecture
- PM Captain Biddick (P&O) seriously ill, underwent operation in afternoon – 1st stretcher bearer requirement.
- 16:00 Passed Cap Vert

Saturday, 24 April

- 02:00 Some of band woken up to give blood.
- 03:00 2nd operation on Captain Biddick – stretcher team required to take him to theatre.
- 05:00 Stretcher team returns Captain Biddick.
- AM Medical lectures
- 17:30 Quartet for Church service in Music Room
- 18:30 Quartet for RPC in Wardroom

Sunday, 25 April

- 08:38 Secured alongside berth at Freetown, Sierra Leone. Captain Biddick disembarked for CasEvac to UK. No shore leave due to local elections and expectation of trouble.

Distance steamed between Gibraltar and Freetown was 2030 nautical miles at an average speed of 14.24 knots.

- 19:07 Departed berth
- 20:00 Clear of Sierra Leone river.

Monday, 26 April

08:30-10:00 Military band rehearsal

10:30 Lecture

17:00-18:30 Band concert in the Music Room; traditional nationalistic programme:

Seven Seas

'NOSH' march

Oliver selection

English Suite

Michelle

Castles Suite

Jesus Christ Superstar

Warship theme

Fantasia on British Sea Songs

Songs of the British Isles

Drum Beatings

Sailing

Pomp & Circumstance march

Evening Hymn

Sunset

Rule Britannia

Tuesday, 27 April

05:14 Crossed the Equator

08:30 'Crossing the Line' band rehearsal

10:30 Lecture

15:00 'Crossing the Line' ceremony

Wednesday, 28 April

08:30 Military band rehearsal

10:30 Casualty reception exercise – slow walk through

17:00 At anchor off Ascension Islands – temperature 27°. Replenished fresh water from Stena Sea Spread.

Distance steamed between Freetown and Ascension was 997 nautical miles at an average speed of 16.03 knots.



Thursday, 29 April

08:30 Dance band rehearsal – remainder Vertrep storing party; 12 loads of stores.
Flying exercises and more fresh water taken on

Friday, 30 April

08:30-10:00 Military band rehearsal
10:30 Lecture
16:30 Casualty reception exercise
21:30 Dance band performance
23:45 Orders received to proceed South to 31°s28°w

Saturday, 1 May

08:30-10:00 Military band rehearsal
10:30 Lecture
Eve: Junior rates disco on the sun deck

Sunday, 2 May

10:30 Quintet for Church Service
Sunday at sea routine

Monday, 3 May

08:30-09:30 Military band rehearsal
09:45 Lecture
10:30 Casualty reception exercise
16:30 Lecture
21:00 Dixie band concert on the sun deck
Argentine aircraft carrier BELGRANO reported attacked and sunk



Tuesday, 4 May

08:30-10:00 Military band rehearsal
10:30 Lecture
17:00 Casualty reception exercise
HMS SHEFFIELD sunk

Wednesday, 5 May

08:30-10:00 Concert rehearsal
10:30-12:00 Lectures
17:00 Casualty reception exercises
21:15 Military band concert in Music Room

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Manhattan Skyline | Drum Beatings |
| Send in the Clowns | My Fair Lady |
| Trumpets Wild | Italian Festival |
| Bacharach and David | Hootenanny |
| Two songs – vocalist | Hearts of Oak |
| MacArthur Park | LOTOW |
| NOSH march | |

Thursday, 6 May

08:30 Military band rehearsal
10:30 lecture
Last day of tropical routine
Musician Kent fractured wrist
17:00 Casualty reception exercise

Friday, 7 May

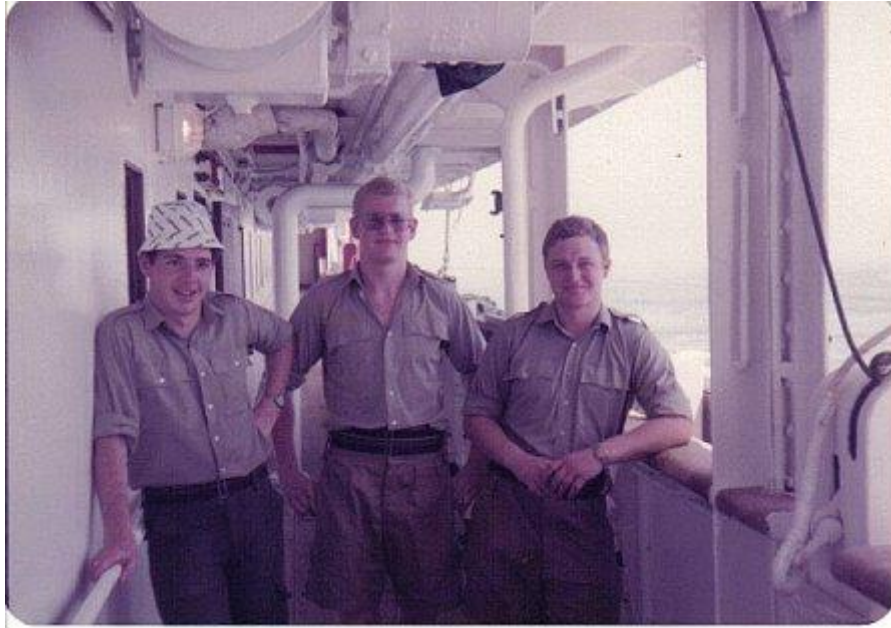
07:00 Met with RN convoy led by *HMS ANTRIM*
08:30 Big band rehearsal
12:30 Commenced RAS with *RFA TIDESPRING* until 16:25 – received mail
18:00 Crash on deck exercise
Eve: Dixie band in P&O Junior Rates mess

Saturday, 8 May

08:30 Big band rehearsal
10:30 Lecture
11:00 Rounds
12:00 BBQ on promenade deck

Sunday, 9 May

10:30 Church service – memorial for *HMS SHEFFIELD*



Musicians Stuart MacLeod, Fred Miller, Gary Halsey

Monday, 10 May

- 08:30 Big band rehearsal
- 11:00 Lecture
- 14:00 Lecture
- 16:30 Emergency drills: evacuation, boat stations
- 23:30 Surprise Casualty reception exercise!

Tuesday, 11 May

- 08:30 Military band rehearsal
- 10:00 Boat stations drill
- 14:00 Lecture
- 16:00 Band security team practise shoot on flight deck
- 16:30 Emergency drills – evacuation, boat stations
- 17:00 Arrived at first ‘NOSH’ (Naval Ocean going Surgical Hospital) box –
49°s-51°s/52°w-54°

Wednesday, 12 May

- 01:00 Entered 200 miles Total Exclusion Zone
Temp: 8.0°C – Wind: Force 8
- 08:30 Military band rehearsal
- 10:00 Casualty reception exercise
- 12:00 Embarked 4 casualties by Sea King from *HMS HERMES* – 1 stretcher case
and 3 walking wounded, *HMS SHEFFIELD* crew
- 14:00 Lecture

Thursday, 13 May

- 08:30 Big band rehearsal
- 10:30 Singer rehearsal
- 11:15 Corps of drums rehearsal
- Foggy conditions throughout day

Friday, 14 May

08:30-11:30 Big band and military band rehearsal – tape recording for *HMS HERMES*
08:45 Joined in ‘NOSH’ box by *HMS HECLA* followed by VERTREP
23:00 New ‘NOSH’ box allocated - 48°-49°s/53°-54°w

Saturday, 15 May

Gales throughout morning – rolling up to 18° port and starboard
Wind: SWxS’y Force 10
08:30 Big band rehearsal
15:00 Film in Assembly Hall: ‘Live and Let Die’

Sunday, 16 May

08:45 RAS with *RFA APPLELEAF*
10:45 Church band
11:00 Joined by Tug *SALVAGEMAN*
13:30 Helo transfer with *HMS HERMES*
A quiet day at sea in ‘NOSH’ box

Monday, 17 May

08:30 Military band rehearsal
14:00 Lecture
Eve Inter-mess darts championship

Tuesday, 18 May

08:15 Rendezvous with *HMS INTREPID* to receive desalination plant by VERTREP
– 22 loads weighing in at 12 tons
Mail received

Wednesday, 19 May

08:30 Military band rehearsal
10:30 Rendezvous with *HMS HYDRA* – received mail
14:00 3 casual



Thursday, 20 May

08:00 Received 24 Argentinian prisoners, crew of the spy fishing vessel, *Narwhal*, by Wasp helo from *HMS HECLA*. Band mount 24-hour guard.

21:00 Big Band concert in Music Room:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| St Louise Blues | Colonel Bogey on Parade |
| Serenade in Blue | Song by Medical Team Choir: 'Guide Me |
| Little Brown Jug | Oh, Thy Great UGANDA' |
| A String of Pearls | Song: Ram It! – I'm RDP |
| American Patrol | NOSH Song (to tune of Sailing) |
| Song: Amazing Grace | NOSH march |
| Julie Do Ya Love Me? | Rule Britannia |
| Light My Fire | Hearts of Oak |
| Our Day Will Come | LOTOW |
| Son of a Preacher Man | National Anthem |

Words to 'Guide Me Oh, Thy Great UGANDA'

Guide me, Oh, thy Great UGANDA,
Britons to that barren land
Headed for South Georgia and the Falklands
Played there by a Royal Marines Band.
Quite extraordinary uckers and embroidery
Sentries posted at each shower (at each shower)
These are the trappings of Great Britain's power.

Plough through the Great Atlantic ocean
Heaving in its mighty swell
Hearts filled with pride, with loyalty and devotion
Stomachs heaving with swell as well
Racing with a tanker, Chief Bright's worked a flanker
Sold one sister for ten crates of beer (crates of beer)
Oh, my god, What am I doing here?

Indians stretchered off as if in meditation
Out of CSA and into ITU
The it lurches and from apparent levitation
We in Theatre our first case of Asian flu
Has the mail come on board, I do believe
That Bootnecks scored
Come on, take your Paludrine (Your Paludrine)
This is another fine mess you've got me in.

P&O have hosted us superbly
The Captain and his staff so cool and so refined
But how does one measure this depth of self-assurance
No doubt one would have to use a plumb line
Duty free merchandise, at this rate I'll be catheterised
Everyone into BraHMS and Liszt (BraHMS and Liszt)
Thank God we brought our own Psychiatrist.



Friday, 21 May

Morning Move to new position 80 miles NE of Port Stanley

08:30 Medical demonstration in Triage

Band continue guard duties on prisoners

BBC broadcast news on invasion of Falklands by Task Force – heavy casualties expected

21:00 Dixie band in P&O crews mess

Saturday, 22 May

08:30 VERTRP from *HMS HYDRA*.

News received of sinking of *HMS ARDENT* – 20 persons lost.

11:00 Church band rehearsal

11:30 Practised jackstay transfer with *HMS HYDRA*

Position: 40 miles off East Falkland

Sunday, 23 May

Although expected, no casualties received today

10:30 Church band



Monday, 24 May

09:00 Exercise Argentine prisoners

09:30 Dance band rehearsal in Assembly Hall

14:00 Lecture

19:24 Ordered to proceed to Middle Bay, at entrance to Falkland Sound

20:00 Dixie band concert for patients and Argentine POWs.

News received of *HMS ARDENT* sinking

21:30 Entered Middle Bay, surprised *HMS COVENTRY*! Casualties expected in morning

Overnight awaited further instructions off Eddystone Rock

Tuesday, 25 May

09:24 Buzzed by 2 Argentine A4 Skyhawk jets. One later shot down, but at expense of *HMS COVENTRY* being attacked

10:00 Received 9 casualties

10:30 Received 11 casualties

More casualties continue to arrive – too many to count.

Night flying to receive more casualties

Busiest day so far

Wednesday, 26 May

News received that *ATLANTIC CONVEYOR* has been attacked

10:00 9 casualties transferred from *HMS HYDRA*

Band perform ward duties and security duties

74 casualties on board now

BBC World Service reports that Argentine planes spotted *UGANDA* yesterday in Middle Bay and have warned that she may be hit if in way.

Thursday, 27 May

08:30 Back in Middle Bay – sighted empty liferaft from *ATLANTIC CONVEYOR*

Received 12 casualties by Sea King helicopter

Ward orderly duties

Friday, 28 May

09:00 Transferred 24 Argentine POWs and 18 patients to *HMS HECLA* using 2 Wasp helicopters, for onward journey to Montevideo, and to casevac patients to UK.

Weather deteriorating – Force 9, making flying/landing dangerous

12:00 Sea King helicopter arrives with 11 casualties

13:00 Chinook helicopter arrives with many casualties and managed to land on the small flightdeck, followed by another Sea King

14:21 Buzzed by 5 Argentine A4 Skyhawk jets

Ward duties – operations on patients until 23:30



Saturday, 29 May

12:00-12:30 Stores transfer

Afternoon - Received 3 Sea Kings with about 30 casualties from 2 Parachute Regiment, injured at Goose Green.

Wind Force 7 and snowing

22:00 Passed through narrows into Falkland Sound, then anchored in Grantham Sound

Sunday, 30 May

Morning Received 3 Sea Kings with casualties plus No1 Surgical Support Team (SST1) from *HMS HERMES* – welcome extra medical staff!

Informed by Argentine forces that in our present position we may be treated as a hostile ship. Moved to new Red Cross Box on north side of East Falkland at 50°50's 58°40'w

Monday, 31 May

09:30 Back to Grantham Sound. Passed San Carlos Bay with some Task Force shipping at anchor. Continued to receive casualties by 8 helicopters, mainly Argentine.

20:20 Sailed Grantham Sound for Red Cross Box
Security duties recommence on Argentine casualties/POWs.

Tuesday, 1 June

Am Vertrep with *HMS HYDRA*

Pm Transferred 48 patients to *HMS HYDRA* for onward passage to Montevideo and casevac back to UK.

Wednesday, 2 June

09:00 Joined *RFA OLMEDA* and *HMS HYDRA* in RAS(L) in new position 120 NE of Port Stanley

Transferred 2 patients to *HMS HYDRA*

Ward duties

Returned to Red Cross Box at night

Thursday, 3 June

Returned and anchored in Grantham Sound. Embarked 12 casualties by helo – 10 Argentineans and 2 British, all lightly wounded

Received mail

18:00 Sailed Grantham Sound for Red Cross Box

Friday, 4 June

Rendezvous with Argentine hospital ship, *BAHIA PARAISO* – transferred 40 Argentinean patients by BP Puma helicopter



Saturday, 5 June

Remained in Red Cross Box all day. Sea King helo arrived from *SS CANBERRA* with specialist equipment.

Sunday, 6 June

10:00 Arrived in Grantham Sound – did not anchor due to wind strength, Force 9.

Pm 4 Wessex helo landings, very precarious! Embarked 20 British casualties, then no more flying due to weather conditions

Remained in Grantham Sound overnight

Monday, 7 June

04:00 Departed Grantham Sound, proceeded to Red Cross Box to R/V with *HMS HECLA* to transfer fresh stores, mail and 13 extra staff from UK

Tuesday, 8 June

09:00 Transferred 61 patients to *HMS HERALD* for casevac back to UK – 28 cot cases, 33 walking wounded, by 2 Wasp helicopters

18:30 Directed back to Grantham Sound

21:00 Received news that *HMS PLYMOUTH*, *RFA's SIR GALAHAD* and *SIR TRISTRAM* have been attacked and damaged

Wednesday, 9 June

09:40 Began receiving casualties – lost count of number of deck landings, but received 160 casualties, mainly from *SIR GALAHAD*, lots of cases of severe burns. We understand that a bomb landed in the well deck as the troops were about to disembark.

18:05 Departed Grantham Sound for Red Cross Box

19:00 BBC World Service announces that *SIR GALAHAD* has been abandoned with heavy loss of life. *SIR TRISTRAM*, carrying ammunition, also abandoned. A landing craft from *HMS FEARLESS* has been destroyed, just 2 survivors



Thursday, 10 June

09:00 R/V with *BAHIA PARAISO* – received some inspectors from the International Red Cross and medical stores. Also transferred 10 temporary staff from *HMS HECLA*.

14:00 At anchor in Grantham Sound

Marine Paul Callan, who had been nursed and hand ventilated by band members, died at 11:45. Body flown ashore at 17:15 – band provided bearer party and lining party
3 helos received with light casualties, mainly trench foot.

18:15 Departed Grantham Sound and returned to new Red Cross Box, 23 miles east of the old one

Friday, 11 June

08:30 Grantham Sound - R/V with *HMS HYDRA* – 26 vertrep loads and mail transferred

Pm 3 helos arrived with light casualties, including 3 Argentinians

21:00 R/V with *BAHIA PARAISO* in Red Cross Box to transfer Argentinian casualties

R/V with *HMS HYDRA* – boat transfer of 2 Red Cross officials

Saturday, 12 June

08:00 Back in Grantham Sound

Battles taking place in hills around Port Stanley; received over 80 casualties, many seriously injured. In the morning transferred 61 patients to *HMS HECLA* for casevac back to UK

Returned to Red Cross Box at night



The Uganda in action

The Ministry of Defence did not allow either the press or naval photographers aboard HMMS *Uganda* while British and Argentinian wounded were being treated on her.

But last week it released some photographs, taken by amateur photographers, which convey something of the atmosphere of a hospital ship in action

Below: Sea View Ward. The pillars provided reinforcement for the helicopter landing pad provided on deck. The noise when the helicopters alighted was deafening in the ward — and at one stage in the campaign helicopters were queuing to land the wounded.



Above: the operating theatre in the ballroom. Below: the ITU.



Above: the intensive care unit. Above right: the music room became the burns unit.

Sunday, 13 June

08:00 At anchor in Grantham Sound

09:00 onwards – helicopters queuing to land on board with casualties. Initial reception of 30 casualties from Ajax Bay. Lots of stores arrived from *HMS INTREPID*

Short snow storm

A private from the Paras who arrived yesterday with a head wound died this morning. Body transferred ashore by helo – band provided bearer and lining parties
More Argentinean casualties arrived. A young Para brought on at 16:00 died at 17:00 from head wound. Many of the casualties now with head wounds from snipers
HMS GLAMORGAN said to have been hit by a land fired Exocet missile – refused aid and sailed away
Returned to Red Cross Box for night

Monday, 14 June

06:30 At anchor in Grantham Sound
07:00 *HMS HYDRA* alongside – transferred via gangway 80 patients: 42 walking wounded, 38 stretcher cases
09:00 Repeat of previous day – lots of arrivals by helo from shoreside hospital
60 more casualties received during the day
13:15 News of Port Stanley surrender!
Freezing cold again with some snow. Returned to Red Cross Box for night



Tuesday, 15 June

08:00 Back in Grantham Sound but too rough to anchor; Wind S'ly Force 8
BBC news reports that Major General Moore received the unconditional surrender of all Argentine forces in the Falklands from General Menendez
09:00-13:00 Received lots of casualties from ashore – Ajax, Teal and Fitzroy
Shore hospital cleared
Weather bad again
One body received from ashore, a WO2 Scots Guardsman, who died in suspicious circumstances.

Wednesday, 16 June

Back to Grantham Sound. Passed San Carlos Bay, ships everywhere. Close pass with *SS CANBERRA*, ships hooters sounded.

Yesterday's body flown ashore on first helo. R/V with *BAHIA PARAIISO* to transfer 30+ Argentinean casualties.

Many helicopter landings bringing visiting officers.

Some statistics to date:

537 daytime landings; 14 night landings

1280 personnel landed by helo

644 casualties received; 299 patients on board as of yesterday

Thursday, 17 June

Grantham Sound – some heavy snow today

Received 2 *HMS GLAMORGAN* casualties by Sea King from *HMS INVINCIBLE*

Lots of surgical operations carried out – band stretcher teams kept busy

Many helicopter landings again bringing visitors

News received of General Galtieri's resignation and Argentine acceptance of no further hostilities in South Atlantic

Friday, 18 June

Grantham Sound again.

Band provided stretcher teams again for operating theatre

Receive 3 Argentinean casualties

2 Buglers provided for memorial service at Ajax Bay

Return to Red Cross Box and R/V with *HMS HERALD* to exchange mail

Saturday, 19 June

Grantham Sound – *HMS HERALD* alongside. Transferred 100 patients for casevac back to UK and received victuals and medical stores.

5 casualties received

Evening Celebration dinner

Sunday, 20 June

R/V with Argentine hospital ship *ALMIRANTE IRIZAR* to transfer 3 patients before going to Grantham Sound.

13:00 R/V with *HMS HECLA* – received tons of stores and transferred 80 patients for casevac to UK. Received mail.

16:20 Departed Grantham Sound for Port William

Monday, 21 June

09:00 – 13:00 RAS with *RFA OLN A*

15:00 Anchor in Port William inner harbour, just outside Port Stanley, in company with *CANBERRA*, *ATLANTIC CAUSEWAY*, *MINERVA* and many other merchant vessels.

18:00 Bandmaster received VHF radio call from Captain John Ware, Director of Music, RM Commando Forces Band, onboard *CANBERRA*.

Tuesday, 22 June

At anchor in Port William

Bandmaster Gary Brownrig visited from *CANBERRA*.

SPLICE THE MAINBRACE for birth of son to Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

Wednesday, 23 June

- 08:00 Duty team to operating theatre.
- 08:15 Remainder stores transfer from *HMS HYDRA*
- 09:30 Advance party from Commando Forces band arrive
1 casualty received from ashore – RM Corporal Lea who had lost a foot in a mine explosion
- 17:00 Commando Forces band give concert in Stanley Cathedral
- 20:00 Commando Forces band return to *UGANDA*

Thursday, 24 June

- 08:00 Band mustered; duty team to operating theatre – remainder patient transfer
- 18:30 Commando Forces go ashore by boat for second concert in Stanley Cathedral. Bandmaster Attwood ashore also to attend briefing at Government House about Commissioner's return following day.
- 21:30 Boat returns to *UGANDA*

Friday, 25 June

- 08:30 FOF3 band rehearse in Assembly Hall.
- 09:30 Commando Forces band departs *UGANDA* for *CANBERRA* – FOF3 band plays them off with music from upper deck. Later in day *CANBERRA* sails for UK.
- 10:00 FOF3 band to Port Stanley by boat
- 12:00 Parade rehearsal on Sports Field outside Government House for return of Civil Commissioner.
- 13:40 Civil Commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, arrives – Guard and Band provided. Weather very cold and wet.
- 14:30 Band returns to *UGANDA*





Saturday, 26 June

08:15 Band mustered; duty team to operating theatre
Generally a quiet day

Sunday, 27 June

08:30 Duty team on standby for casualty reception
10:30 Church service – brass quartet provided
Yet another quiet day

Monday, 28 June

08:15 Band mustered; duty team to operating theatre. Remainder of band standing by to load 50 beds plus stores ashore by helicopter – unfortunately no helicopters available!
14:00 Beds and stores loaded into boats for move ashore
16:30 Departed anchorage for Red Cross Box

Tuesday, 29 June

07:45 R/V with *HMS HECLA*, but weather prevented transfer of stores and personnel. Headed for shelter of Middle Bay.
12:45 Anchored in Middle Bay, commenced transfer
16:30 Completed transfer and sailed for Port William

Wednesday, 30 June

04:45 Wind gusting Force 11 – too strong to enter Port William. Spent day steaming in shelter of East Falkland.
A quiet day at sea

Thursday, 1 July

- 09:00 Entered Port William
- 10:00 Bandmaster ashore by Wasp helicopter for 3 July Airborne Forces Day planning meeting
- 10:30 Anchored in inner harbour
- 16:30 Bandmaster returns by Sea King

Friday, 2 July

Military band rehearsal in Assembly Hall
A quiet day in Port William. First shore excursions to Port Stanley.

Saturday, 3 July

- 10:00 Band rehearsal in Assembly Hall
- 13:30 Boat transfer of full band ashore
- 13:30 Flypast over Stanley by Harriers and helicopters
- 14:30 Bugler provided for Service of Remembrance in Cathedral
- 15:15 Airborne Forces Day - March past of 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers – Major General Moore takes the salute
- 16:00 Band transfer to *UGANDA* by boat
- 16:45 Weighted anchor and departed Port William for ‘Around Falklands Cruise’
- 18:00 Service of Remembrance in Chapel for Paras



Sunday, 4 July

- 08:30 Passed along north coast of Pebble Island
- 10:00 Church Service – brass quartet
- 10:30 Entered Falkland Sound in thick snow shower
- 11:00 Cruised off Port San Carlos
- 12:40 Lynx helicopter from *HMS EXETER* loaded with stores
- 15:00 Passed Swan Island
- 17:00 Cleared Falkland Sound

Monday, 5 July

08:30 Anchored off New Island
09:10 Cruised in Ship harbour – landing impracticable due to bad weather
10:00 Departed New Island – set various courses to round western end of West Falkland
19:16 Rounded Barren Island
21:15 Passed Sea Lion Islands

Tuesday, 6 July

08:00 Anchored in Port William
09:20 *HMS HYDRA* alongside
Duty stretcher team to operating theatre
Dixie band rehearsal in Assembly Hall; remainder of band stores transfer from *HYDRA*
19:00 *UGANDA* RPC for *HYDRA* ship's company

Wednesday, 7 July

08:15 Band mustered
08:30 Duty team to operating theatre; remainder patient transfer to *HYDRA*
11:00 *HYDRA* away
20:30 Dixie band concert in P&O crew bar

Thursday, 8 July

08:15 Band mustered
09:00 Military band rehearsal in JRs Mess
09:00 Departed Port William for RAS with *RFA OLNA*
11:50 Commenced RAS
14:50 RAS completed, set sail for Port William
19:00 Anchored in outer harbour
22:00 16 Field Ambulance advance party arrive (40 ranks)

BAND CEASED STRETCHER BEARER DUTIES

Friday, 9 July

08:00 Anchor aweigh – moved anchorage to the 'hospital' berth
09:00 Military band rehearsal in Junior Rates mess
12:45 Bandmaster to Navy Point by Wessex for 847 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm, recce
15:30 Bandmaster returns by Wessex

Saturday, 10 July

09:00 Military band rehearsal in Junior Rates mess
11:55 Embark 92 children for party
12:50 Corps of Drums display in Music Room for children
Met Major Pilley, Army Education Corps, who was once a Band Corporal instructor at Deal
15:45 Falklands children happily disembarked!

Sunday, 11 July

- 09:30 All fast alongside *RFA FORT TORONTO* to take on fresh water
10:30 Church band
12:30 Completed loading 900 tons of water
13:00 Band transfer to Navy Point by helicopter
14:00 Concert for 847 Squadron – their morale rose by 100%!

Programme

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| National Anthem | Jesus Christ Superstar |
| Winds | British Sea Songs |
| English Suite | Semper Fidelis |
| Buglers Holiday | Drum Beatings |
| Castles Suite | Hootenanny |
| Send in the Clowns | Hearts of Oak |
| MacArthur Park | A Life on the Ocean Wave |

- 15:45 Band return to *UGANDA* by helicopter
18:00 Ships dance committee meeting

Monday, 12 July

- 08:45 Military band rehearsal in Music Room
Buglers rehearsal in Assembly Hall
13:30 Quartet for Major General Moore's Farewell Dinner depart – overnight stay
Britain formally accepts guarantees of end to hostilities

Tuesday, 13 July

UGANDA LOSES STATUS AS HOSPITAL SHIP

Quartet returns

- 09:30 Emergency – received 8 casualties from Stanley airport who were injured by misfire of 2 sidewinder missiles, which resulted in amputations
10:45 Military band rehearsal in Music Room
12:30 Received news of possible departure for UK coming Saturday
15:30 Dixie band to Navy Point to play for 847 Squadron – overnight stay
Remainder of Army 16 Field Ambulance embark

Wednesday, 14 July

UGANDA now has a buff coloured funnel

- 09:00 Dixie band returned from Navy Point
09:30 Rig Triage for Ship's Dance
10:30 Dance band rehearse in Assembly Hall
13:30 10 patients aeromedevac
16:00 Weighed anchor and departed Port William. Course set for Falkland Sound northern entrance
21:00 Ships dance in Triage – dance band played 21:45-22:15 and 23:00-23:30

Thursday, 15 July

- 08:15 Anchored in Grantham Sound
- 11:40 Began embarking 320 Gurkhas and kit by 2 Chinook helicopters – band provide 1 SNCO and 10 ranks to assist on flight deck
- 16:20 Embarkation complete

Friday, 16 July

- 02:00 Weighed anchor – set various courses through Falkland Sound to Fox Bay
- 09:45 Began embarking 237 Gurkhas and kit by helicopter whilst under way as winds too strong to anchor. Band provide another team of 1 SNCO and 10 ranks to assist
- 14:30 Completed flying operations – all troops embarked. Set course for Port William

Saturday, 17 July

- 09:07 Berthed alongside *RFA FORT TORONTO* to take on water
- 15:00 Fog postponed storing by Vertrep

Sunday, 18 July

- 08:30 Commenced stores transfer with *HMS HYDRA* by boat
- 10:30 Quartet for Church Service
- 12:55 Vertrep with *RFA FORT GRANGE* off Volunteer Point
- 14:00 All storing complete – SET SAIL FOR ASCENSION ISLAND!
Wind WxS'y Force 8

Monday, 19 July

- 10:00 General emergency stations – all personnel mustered at boats
o/c Dismantle Intensive Care Unit and Operating Theatre, stowing stretchers and medical stores

Tuesday, 20 July

- 08:30 Military Band rehearsal in Smoke Room
- Wind: N'y Force 7

Wednesday, 21 July

- 09:00 Military band rehearsal in Smoke Room
- 12:30 R/V with *HMS DUNBARTON CASTLE* – transfer mail

Thursday, 22 July

- 09:00 Military band rehearsal in Smoke Room
- 10:00 Table Top beat retreat rehearsal in Smoke Room
- 16:30 Entertainments committee meeting in Deputy Captain's cabin

Friday, 23 July

- 08:45 Big band rehearsal in Smoke Room

Saturday, 24 July

- 08:45 Military band rehearsal in Smoke Room
- 10:30 Corps of Drums rehearse Mess Beatings
- 21:00 Disco on Promenade Deck

Sunday, 25 July

10:30 Church Service – brass quartet
Memorial for Gurkhas – Bugler Last Post and Reveille

Monday, 26 July

08:45 Military band rehearsal in Smoke Room

Tuesday, 27 July

08:45 Military band rehearsal in Smoke Room
10:45 Band photograph with Surgeon L/Cdr David Baker RN and Nursing Sister Elizabeth Law. Dr Baker is replaced as Band Officer by Surgeon Lt Warner RN.

Wednesday, 28 July

07:00 Arrived off Ascension Island – began flying operations to transfer stores and personnel. Band provides storing party of 8 ranks
08:40 Alongside *ALVEGA* to take on fuel and water
08:45 Corps of Drums rehearse in Smoke Room
10:30 Dixie Band rehearse in Smoke Room
16:07 Let go from *ALVEGA* – proceed to sea
21:00 Dixie night on Promenade Deck

Thursday, 29 July

08:45 Military band rehearsal in Smoke Room
12:30 Entertainments committee meeting
21:00 Mess Beatings in Sergeants' Mess
21:00 Junior Rates Disco on Sun Deck

Friday, 30 July

02:24 *UGANDA* crosses the equator
09:00 Military band rehearsal in Seaview Room
11:30 NP1830 photograph on flight deck
20:30 Concert for other ranks in Seaview

Programme

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Drum Majorette | Songs: You Light Up My Life) Sister Law |
| The Big Country | Amazing Grace) |
| Paint Your Wagon | Song from 'MASH' |
| Star Wars | Stars and Stripes Forever |
| McArthur Park | Drum Beatings |
| Interval | Sailing |
| Jesus Christ Superstar | Hootenanny |
| | A Life On The Ocean Wave |

Saturday, 31 July

17:00 Sod's Opera(Ship's Show) meeting in Deputy Captain's cabin
21:00 Disco in Music Room for NP1830

Sunday, 1 August

10:30 Church Service, brass quartet
13:45 Pianist rehearsal with 16 Field Ambulance
21:30 Concert in Music Room

Programme

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Silver Quill | NOSH march |
| The Big Country | Song from MASH |
| Star Wars | Songs with Nursing Sister Liz Law: |
| Airport '75 | I Don't Know How to Love Him |
| Exodus | Amazing Grace |
| Paint Your Wagon | Simon and Garfunkel |
| Mexican Hat Dance | Stars and Stripes Forever |
| Buglers Holiday | Drum Beatings |
| 40 Fathoms | Hootenanny |
| Tijuana Brass | Hearts of Oak |
| | A Life On The Ocean Wave |

Monday, 2 August

08:30 Move gear from Music Room to Thackeray classroom
09:00 Pianist in Assembly Hall for 16 Field Ambulance
11:00 Trio in Thackeray for MAO, Glyn Wintle and Liz Law
16:30 Pianist in Assembly Hall

Tuesday, 3 August

09:00 Trio in Assembly Hall for 16 Field Ambulance rehearsal
11:00 Trio in Assembly Hall for MAO, Glyn Wintle and Liz Law
15:00 Dry run through of Ships Show for timing

Wednesday, 4 August

09:00 Military band rehearsal in Smoke Room
10:05 Helo on deck from Las Palmas with 3 P&O personnel
15:00 Dress rehearsal for Ships Show
17:30 Corps of Drums rehearsal on Promenade Deck

Thursday, 5 August

09:00 Band to clean instruments
20:00 1st performance of Ships Show
22:00 2nd performance of Ships Show
23:59 Passed 340 miles off Gibraltar

Friday, 6 August

During the morning, *UGANDA* overflown by 1 Sea King and 2 Sea Harriers, presumed from *HMS ILLUSTRIOUS*
11:00 'O' Group in bandmaster's cabin to plan move off on arrival in Southampton
17:30 Procedure 'A' rehearsal
21:15 Corps of Drums Mess Beatings on Promenade Deck

Saturday, 7 August

07:00 Passed Cape Villano, southern edge of Bay of Biscay
09:00 Military band rehearsal in Smoke Room – rehearse Procedure 'A' music

11:00 Presentation of tankards to band ranks leaving on arrival: Dave Bentley, Wayne Charlesworth and Steve Kent.

Sunday, 8 August

08:00 Passed 48 miles off Ushant, northern edge of Bay of Biscay – entered English Channel
10:30 Church Service – brass quartet
16:00 Arrived in Mounts Bay, Cornwall
16:30 Helo transfer of P&O, liaison and press personnel to *UGANDA* from *RNAS CULDROSE*
17:15 Rounded Lizard Point
23:30 Passed 15 miles off Start Point

Monday, 9 August

05:30 Arrived off Portland. Commenced embarking press personnel by helo from *RNAS PORTLAND*
06:30 Early breakfast
08:00 Pilot embarked off The Needles, Isle of Wight
08:00 Press briefing in Music Room
08:05 Various VIPs embarked by helo inc John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, Medical Director General, FOF1 etc.
08:15 *UGANDA* proceeds up the western arm of the Solent
09:30 Entered Southampton Water
10:00 Docking Pilot embarked off Fawley
10:00 Procedure ‘A’
11:00 *UGANDA* secured starboard side alongside Berth 106, Western Docks, Southampton – 113 days after leaving Gibraltar

Band disembark *UGANDA* and move to *HMS NELSON* then to 5 weeks leave!

Some facts and figures about the deployment

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Total distance travelled | 22,709 nautical miles |
| Total revolutions turned by propeller | 9,813,000 |
| Total fuel consumed | 4,700 tons |
| Total fresh water used | 10,750 tons |
| Total fresh water made by Niagara and Kariba (by reverse osmosis) | 6,182 tons |
| Total number of RAS operations | 6 |
| Total day landings on flight deck | 1,044 |
| Total night landings on flight deck | 19 |
| Total Vertrep loads received/sent | 250 |
| Total personnel landed to/from <i>UGANDA</i> by helo | 3,111 |
| Total number of casualties landed as ‘in patients’ (of which 159 were Argentinians) | 730 |
| Total number of surgical operations performed | 503 |
| Total number of meals served | 212,343 |

Post leave events

Tuesday, 14 September

- 07:45 Leave expires
Am – Collect pantechnicon; sight all gear and instruments. Inspect lovats and ceremonial uniforms
- 14:00 Librarians put out music for *HMS INVINCIBLE*
- 15:00 Bandmaster to Fort Southwick

Wednesday, 15 September

- 08:30 Military band rehearse *INVINCIBLE* music

Thursday, 16 September

- 08:30 Military band rehearse *INVINCIBLE* music
- 11:00 Clean out band pantechnicon

Friday, 17 September

- 06:00 Early breakfast
- 06:30 Transport departs *HMS NELSON*
- 07:00 PAS boat departs Kings Stairs
- 08:00 Embark *HMS INVINCIBLE* at Spithead
- 12:10 Fall in for Procedure 'A'
- 12:45 Alongside West Wall, Portsmouth
- 13:45 Transport to *HMS NELSON*

Monday, 20 September

- 08:30 Big band rehearsal

Tuesday, 21 September

- 08:30 Military band rehearse Beat Retreat music
- 11:00 Dance band rehearse

Wednesday, 22 September

- 08:30 Beat Retreat rehearsal
- Pm Visit *HMS FEARLESS* ref onmove

Thursday, 23 September

- 08:30 Military band rehearsal
- 10:30 Begin loading pantechnicon for *HMS FEARLESS*
- 13:30 Transport departs for Spithead House
- 14:15 American Admiral arrival – salute
- 14:30 Return to *HMS NELSON*
- Finish loading pantechnicon – o/c to extended long weekend

Tuesday, 28 September

- 08:30 Military band rehearsal
- 11:00 Beat retreat rehearsal

Wednesday, 29 September

- 08:30 Military band rehearsal
- 10:30 Band drafting officer (Lt Mike Goss) gives an address to the band, followed by personal interviews
- 13:30 Inoculations

Thursday, 30 September

- 08:30 Beat retreat rehearsal
- 10:30 Cholera vaccinations
- 11:15 Beat retreat rehearsal

Monday, 4 October

- Am Lt Jim Rider, editor of Blue Band Magazine, visits to gather material for next edition

Tuesday, 5 October

- 08:30 Military band for *HMS CENTURION* memorial service rehearse
- 10:30 Chest X-rays
- 11:00 Beat retreat rehearsal

Wednesday, 6 October

- 08:00 Transport departs for RM POOLE – clothing visit
- 08:30 Remainder to *HMS CENTURION* for memorial service

Thursday, 7 October

- 07:45 Transport departs for *HMS EXCELLENT*
- All day marching practise with sailors for London parade
- 16:00 Return to *HMS NELSON*

Friday, 8 October

- 07:45 Another day rehearsing in *HMS EXCELLENT*

Saturday, 9 October

- 15:30 Leave expires
- 16:00 Depart *HMS NELSON* for Regents Park Barracks, London

Sunday, 10 October

- 04:30 Early breakfast!
- 05:00 Depart for Chelsea Barracks
- 08:00 London parade rehearsal steps off from Armoury House
o/c return to Regents Park Barracks
- 10:30 Depart for *HMS NELSON*
- 12:30 Arrive *HMS NELSON*

Monday, 11 October

- 08:00 Transport departs for *HMS EXCELLENT* – collect medals – 83p!
- 12:00 Return to *HMS NELSON*
- 14:00 Leaving routine and Part II cholera injections
- 15:00 Depart *HMS NELSON* for Regents Park Barracks

Tuesday, 12 October

- 09:00 Depart Regents Park Barracks for Chelsea Barracks – Dress: full ceremonial
- 10:00 Depart Chelsea Barracks for Armoury House with Police escort
- 12:30 Parade steps off for City of London – Salute to the Task Force – March to the Guildhall, FOF3 Band and RMSM Band leading
- 13:30 Official lunch for 1200 ranks in the Guildhall
- 15:30 Return to Regents Park Barracks via Chelsea Barracks

Wednesday, 13 October

- 08:30 Depart Regents Park Barracks for RAF NORTHOLT
- 09:15 Arrive RAF NORTHOLT – slight problem regarding weight, instruments and baggage, for flight. Big argument with RAF loadmaster
- 11:30 Flight 1870 RAF Andover Mk1 departs for Nice, France
- 14:50(local) Arrive Nice for refuelling – just time for a quick beer in transit lounge!
- 15:45 Depart Nice for Naples
- 18:00 Arrive Naples – but no transport!
- 20:00 Transport eventually arrives for transfer to *HMS FEARLESS*

The Band rejoined *HMS FEARLESS* for the Mediterranean deployment, visiting Split (Yugoslavia), Salonika, Istanbul, Venice, and Brest, before returning to Portsmouth on 26 November.

FALKLANDS REPORT – FLAG OFFICER THIRD FLOTILLA

WO2 Trevor Attwood took command of his first Band a few days before Easter leave. The average age of the lads was twenty-one and he thought that they seemed a cheerful lot; looking forward to a few days with their families and girl friends before sailing in *HERMES* for a summer trip to the U.S. The recall order was not entirely unexpected and as the Band sat at RAF Lyneham waiting to board their Hercules flight to Gibraltar they were looking forward to a two week luxury ‘jolly’. ‘No problem’, they thought. ‘Where is Ascension anyway?’

They joined the *SS UGANDA* in Gibraltar on Saturday, 17th April and made themselves comfortable; four to a cabin, good food, pity about the noise of steam hammers and welding from the dockies though. Then it happened: work. Hard, manual, gruelling, humping, heaving and straining work. Tons of stores, beds, X-ray machines, crates. Commanders, doctors, dockies (most of the time), nurses, even bandy and the buglers were humping. It was Musician George Morrison’s first wedding anniversary; and he humped.

UGANDA, fully equipped as a hospital ship slipped out of Gibraltar at 0912 on Monday, 19th April and the band in their green denim working rig stayed out of sight.

The Naval Party aboard comprised surgeons, nursing staff, sick bay orderlies numbering about 120 and the Band. It was evident even at this early stage that with the medical party divided between theatre teams, support groups, and with the ward staff divided into watches that the skilled medics were thin on the ground. The Band spent the first few days practising half forgotten first-aid techniques and learning how to carry stretchers and finding their way around the ship, and generally telling themselves ‘it’s just a joke’. At night they danced to the glow of the setting sun and the music of their Dixie band. On Wednesday, 28th April *UGANDA* was ten miles North East of Ascension Island and exercising boat launch and recovery, flying stations and ‘Replenishment at Sea’. The lads were putting the finishing touches to the CASEVAC route to help them in their now established main role of quickly unloading casualties from the helicopter landing pad and moving them down to the wards and clearing station below. As the ship sailed South with the weather deteriorating, the Band generally lost interest in the excellent food prepared by *UGANDA*’s chefs. They felt apprehensive, cold and a long way from home.

UGANDA arrived in her first ‘Nosh box’, the Red Cross safe area, at 1700 on 11th May. The band stowed their instruments ... and waited.

Then they came; the casualties. A trickle at first, a Chief from *HMS SHEFFIELD* with first degree burns, sailors rolled in blankets with flash burns, their eyelids burnt away. Marines and soldiers with gunshot wounds, limbless and in pain. More came. They carried them to the operating theatres and back to the wards. They carried them to the X-ray department and moved them between decks. They dressed their wounds and changed their beds. And still they came, until the days and nights merged together into a muscle-aching nightmare and each member of the band fought against his own personal battle against exhaustion. Trevor Attwood’s main role now was one of watching the band carefully. On several occasions he had to order them to stop work and take a meal or a couple of hours sleep.

Then there were 'Argies' as well. Utterly miserable, filthy, terrified and starving. They had been living in the field for weeks and had dysentery. The lads bathed them, reassured them, and then guarded them.

The medical teams were now fully stretched. As *UGANDA* was buzzed by Skyhawks at 1421 on 28th May in Grantham Sound, the band's main concern was 'If we get hit, how will we get all these casualties off?' A total of seven hundred British and Argentine casualties received treatment aboard *UGANDA* during the operation.

As the battles ashore were won and lost and the casualties slowed and finally stopped there were more opportunities to spread a bit of musical cheer. The band went to Navy Point where 847 Squadron were somehow surviving and working in a freezing tin hut. It probably wasn't the music of 'Hootenanny' nor the 'nutty' the lads took with them after having a 'whip round' on board but the fact that somebody was doing something, anything for them and showing that they were not forgotten.

Buglers Spratt and Harding a few miles away on a cold, wet and windy hillside overlooking Ajax Bay, were playing the 'Last Post'.

The band also led an Airborne Forces parade through Stanley for 9 Para and played at the return of Governor Rex Hunt to the Islands.

The casualties on board *UGANDA* were ferried off and eventually taken back to either Argentina or put onto flights for the UK. Before the ship finally sailed from the Falklands the P&O crew and the band entertained children from Port Stanley to a party.

There are many other stories to tell. Corporal Douglas, for example, during the operation as well as taking a full part in the medical role personally handled, as ship's posty, seven and half tons of mail. One member of the band regrets the fact that he placed an Argentine soldier and Para Sergeant in adjacent beds in the ward. These two had in fact shot each other, but the musician concerned could not understand why the Argentinian would not come out from under the sheets.

UGANDA arrived in Southampton on Monday, 9th August. The band played and the lads were glad to be home.

Extract from the Winter '1982/'83 edition of the Blue Band magazine

20 YEARS ON

FALKLANDS MEMORIES

Musician: FOF3 Band

I left training in Easter 1982 with a draft to FOF3 Band and for my leave I had arranged to go on a pleasure boat trip with some mates on the River Thames. I heard on the radio news that *HMS FEARLESS*, in which the Band was currently embarked, had just sailed for the Falklands and so I phoned my Mum to see if she had heard anything. She had already received a phone call from my new Drum Major and so at the rush I left my 5 mates in a boat on the river, to join FOF3 Band at *HMS NELSON*. The first day as a trained rank I filled in my last will and testament form. The fourth day I flew on my first plane, by the second week I had done my first jazz gig (it was disastrous) and by the end of the month I could drink 10 pints, while playing the trombone at 250 decibels (it had to be this loud to balance up with Smudge's trumpet!). The first month completed in my Service life, and my career was right on track... or not as the case might be.

The first medical experience came two weeks after sailing from Gibraltar. The Captain of *SS UGANDA* needed a life saving operation and four members of the band assisted by carrying him into and out of the operating theatre. It was to be a remarkably prophetic prelude to what lay ahead.

The most ironic gig of the whole conflict was a Jazz concert for the survivors of *HMS SHEFFIELD* on one side of the dining hall and captured Argentinian sailors on the other. George Morrison played a sax solo by an Argentinian sax legend Gato Barbieri and the Argentinian side of the hall erupted, the strangest concert I have ever given. During the night the band had to guard the drug store from the civilian crew, who were less than reliable, and as if that wasn't bad enough the crew were going to go on strike over cabin sharing (a long dit over a beer sometime). Strange what sticks in your mind 20 years on. Everyone on board gave blood to help boost our supplies but one member of the band must have lost too much. A nurse picked him up by the feet and dangled him over the bed, it was either that or the kiss of life to bring him around.

Our duties were numerous mainly revolving around receiving, processing and moving casualties around the ship, into the Operating Theatre, into Intensive Care and even assisting with minor operations such as dressing wounds after surgery. In all I think we handled 850 casualties of which 150 were Argentinean and 700 were British. I remember a young Marine of 17 and a half had received over fifty pints of blood and was being kept alive by manual respiration (performed by members of the band during our watches). I had spent over two hours with him, the Padre had given him the Last Rites when he passed away. There is not one day goes by when I don't think of him.

The homecoming was special, my parents travelled to Southampton to meet the ship. The band did a Procedure Alpha on the flight deck and then we grounded our instruments and hung over the side to see our families. That feeling has only ever been repeated when my children were born.

BdSgt Gary Halsey RM: CTCRM Band

(Reproduced from the Summer 2002 edition of the Blue Band Magazine)

FALKLANDS MEMORIES

Musician: FOF3 Band

It was a cold winters night in 2001 when Roy O'Connor and I, semi seriously, discussed the idea of an ex FOF3/SS Uganda reunion, as in April 2002 it would be the twentieth anniversary of our sailing to the Falklands Islands from Gibraltar. Over the next few days I thought it over and decided to set about organising the "Informal Get Together". The result was a fantastic and unforgettable day. Sixteen out of twenty three were there at the Home Club, Portsmouth. A room filled with memories, photographs, stories old and new, and sixteen old friends who had experienced a special and unforgettable time together twenty years before. A few beers, an excellent meal, and as we walked through Portsmouth, taking in a couple of old haunts, the "Three Crowns" and the "Dorchester" it was as though we had stepped back twenty years, in fact we all felt that we should be going back to the ship, after another beer of course. It was day that I shall never forget. We have decided to meet again in 2007, and I look forward to it very much, and hopefully next time bringing together all twenty three of us.

Mr George Morrison: ex RMBS

(Reproduced from the Summer 2002 edition of the Blue Band Magazine)



Friends Reunited!



Margaret Thatcher

19th April 2008

Twenty six years ago the Hospital Ship Uganda departed Gibraltar for the uncertainties of the South Atlantic. Only a few days before the ship had been host to hundreds of schoolchildren cruising in the Mediterranean. She was now sailing to war.

For the doctors, nurses and support staff on board, the following months would be the ultimate test of their professionalism and dedication. In the most difficult of conditions the ship became a refuge for the men who had given their all and now lay badly injured, in desperate need of life-saving treatment. Sadly, some did not make it through but what is remarkable given the circumstances is that so many of the patients did.

As you gather to mark those months, now over a quarter of a century past, the vivid memories of the skills, the courage and the comradeship of staff and patients alike will be uppermost in your minds. For some of you, the bonds forged aboard Uganda will have survived well after your return. But for all of you, those moments will remain a life-long testament to all that was achieved.

Last year, at numerous events across the country, we saw that the people of Britain have not forgotten all that you did for us in that conflict. Today, again, we honour and salute you.

Margaret Thatcher

THE RT. HON. THE BARONESS THATCHER, L.G.O.M., F.R.S.
HOUSE OF LORDS, LONDON SW1A 0PW

Medics and patients reunite to remember their magnificent Hospital Ship, *Uganda*

ROYAL NAVY medical staff who served on board Her Majesty's Hospital Ship *Uganda* in 1982 have held their first reunion since the Falklands War.

Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service nurses (QARNNS) and Royal Navy medics joined with former Royal Marine stretcher bearers, P&O staff and their former patients for the occasion on board the P&O Cruises superliner *Aurora* in Southampton on Sunday.

Nearly 200 servicemen and women travelled from abroad and all over the UK for the event which was organised by former QARNNS trauma theatre sister Nicci Pugh and Derek Houghton, a P&O accommodation officer, who both served on *Uganda* in 1982.

A special signed message of goodwill was sent by Lady Thatcher to everyone attending the reunion.

Speaking to *Penguin News* after the occasion, Nicci said the reunion, which was supported by the charities St Dunstan's,



Left: Terry Bullingham is presented with a Braille programme by Admiral Andrew Gough and Nicci Pugh.



Above: The Hospital Ship *Uganda*, photographed while in the South Atlantic. This image was on display at the Imperial War Museum during its Falklands 25th Anniversary Exhibition. Nicci Pugh will be bringing the photograph to the Falklands later this year to present to the Museum.

BLESMA and SAMA82, had grown from "a pie and a pint in a pub" to a "magnificent event" on board *Aurora*.

"Nearly every ship and unit from the Task Force was represented in some way as our casualties came from all over the combat zone."

During the reunion a special presentation of a Braille copy of all the reunion documents was made to St Dunstan's CPO Terry Bullingham RN, who lost his sight when HMS *Antrim's* flight deck was strafed by Argentine Dagger aircraft on May 21.

Nicci said the reunion was arranged with people like Terry in mind: "It was obvious to the medics treating and caring for these guys in 1982 that there were going to be very difficult challenges ahead for them all when they got back to UK. They were all incredibly brave and stoic about their injuries, which even for us were a bit harrowing to deal with."

"We felt the time was now right to give them all the opportunity to meet and talk with the RN medi-



Above: (l-r) Ship's physician Michael Beecley, Matron Edith Curson, St Dunstan's Terry Bullingham, blinded on HMS *Antrim*, and Theatre Sister Nicci Pugh.

cal teams who had been there for them all those years ago. There is a very strong and special bond between us all which seems to have strengthened over the years."

Following the success of Sunday's event, Nicci said it looked likely there would be more events organised for *Uganda's* former staff and patients to get together. "We've already arranged to meet shore-side in about a year."

She added: "Very few person-

nel from the Hospital Ship have returned to the Falkland Islands since 1982, and we now hope to plan a group return trip before too long, so my colleagues can share the privilege of returning to your beautiful Islands in peacetime."

"Most are unaware that *Uganda* served as your sea-bridge link to UK via Ascension post-1982, and what a soft spot you all seem to have for her as your special ship even after all these years."

Pictures by Simon Rogers, St Dunstan's
www.st-dunstans.org.uk

KANDY KABIN
Atlantic House
Stanley
Falkland Islands

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Personnel:

Warrant Officer 2 (Bandmaster) Trevor J Attwood
LRAM ARCM Royal Marines

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Band Sergeant | Brian Allen | Euphonium/Cello |
| Sergeant Bugler | Dave Bentley | Drum Major |
| Band Corporal | Derek Douglas | Percussion/Bass Drum |
| Band Corporal | Dave Berry | Bombardon/String Bass |
| Musician | Fred Miller | Flute/Saxophone |
| Musician | Stuart Macleod | Solo Clarinet |
| Musician | George Hobbs | Clarinet/Violin |
| Musician | Steve Kent | Clarinet/Violin |
| Musician | Wayne Charlesworth | Clarinet/Viola |
| Musician | Phil Harriman | Eb Saxophone/Violin |
| Musician | George Morrison | Bb Saxophone/Violin |
| Musician | Ian Milne | Solo Cornet |
| Musician | Graham Smith | Solo Cornet |
| Musician | Steve Castle | Cornet/Violin |
| Musician | Dougie Graham | Cornet/Violin |
| Musician | Mark Richards | Cornet/Piano/Cymbals |
| Musician | Tiny Taylor | Trombone |
| Musician | Gary Halsey | Trombone |
| Bugler | Roy O'Connor | Bugle/Side Drum |
| Bugler | Mark Spratt | Bugle/Side Drum |
| Bugler | Tim Page | Bugle/Side Drum |
| Bugler | Dave Harding | Bugle/Side Drum |