

Chronology

- April 2 Argentina seizes the Falkland Islands.
- 3 House of Commons holds special Saturday debate.
- 4 Argentinian force captures South Georgia.
- 5 Lord Carrington resigns as Foreign Secretary, HMS Hermes and HMS Invincible sail from Portsmouth to head Task Force.
- 6 UK says no negotiated solution without total Argentinian withdrawal. Second Parliamentary debate Tony Benn demands return of Task Force. EE applies sanctions.
- 7 UK announces 200 mile exclusion zone around the Islands from 12 April.
- 8 US Secretary of State General Haig arrives in London to attempt a mediating peace shuttle.
- 12 Haig returns to London after round trip to Buenos Aires. Blockade goes into force.
- 13 Haig returns to Washington. Junta appeals to UN.
- 14 Third Parliamentary debate, Michael Foot continues to endorse Task Force.
- 16 Transcript of conversation between Reagan and Haig leaked in which the US President says that 'Maggie wants a skirmish'.
- 19 Task Force off Ascension island, grows massively with reinforcements. Thatcher rejects Junta's peace plan.
- 25 British forces re-capture South Georgia.
- 26 UN Secretary General says Resolution 502 applies to UK as well as Argentina.
- 27 Foot calls on Thatcher to accept the UN peace call.
- 29 UK announces total air-exclusion zone over Falklands, Argentina announces its own counter-blockade.
- 30 Reagan announces that US will support Britain, confirming failure of Haig Mission, as Peruvian initiative begins.

- May 1 British bomb Port Stanley airstrip, first air clashes (3 Argentinian planes downed). Peruvian peace initiative said to be acceptable.
- 2 British nuclear submarine Conqueror sinks General Belgrano outside the exclusion zone and at least 200 miles from Task Force. Over 300 Argentinian sailors killed. Peruvian peace initiative fails.
- 3 British helicopters attack two Argentinian patrol ships.
- 4 HMS Sheffield sunk by Exocet missile, a Harrier shot down.
- 7 Britain extends its exclusion zone to 12 miles off Argentina's coast.
- 12 QE 2 sails from Portsmouth as troopship; arguments in UK over role of media and government, right-wing condemns war criticism.
- 15 British commando attack on Pebble Island.
- 16 EEC renews its sanctions against Argentina.
- 18 EEC imposes increase in farm prices on UK, overriding Britain's 'veto'.
- 20 Final House of Commons debate on eve of landing. 33 MPs vote against use of the Task Force.
- 21 Task Force lands over 1,000 British troops at San Carlos unopposed and begins to consolidate its bridgehead; strength increases to 5,000.
- 22 Argentinian Air Force begins to sink British ships in intense bombing runs.
- 28 Goose Green taken by British forces. Pope arrives in the UK.
- June 3 British call on Argentinian garrison at Port Stanley to surrender. Tories win Mitcham and Morden by-election.
- 7 Reagan arrives in London on way to Paris summit.
- 8 Heavy British losses at Bluff Cove (50 killed)
- 11 Pope arrives in Buenos Aires.
- 14 Ceasefire arranged as Argentinians in Port Stanley surrender.