

# The Falkland Islands War

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Argentina has been ruled by a military Junta since 1976. Sovereignty of the islands has been disputed since the 18th century, but Britain has maintained a presence since 1833. The Falkland Islands, sparking one of the largest major conflicts since WW2. The Britain's claim rested on the idea of self-determination, and that the people who inhabited the island wished to be governed by Britain.

**On 2 April 1982** Argentinian forces invaded the Falklands Islands. The British were vastly outnumbered, 600 Argentine Commandos to 57 Royal Marines, and forced to surrender.



France 1969 commemorative 0.45 F. Perf. 13 (sg:FR 1835)

**Goose Green** Attention then turned to Goose Green, where the first and longest land battle of the campaign would be fought. Following victory at Goose Green, British forces began their battle for Stanley, the islands' capital.

These landings were almost unopposed, but the Royal Navy continued to suffer from Argentine air attacks in what became known as the Battle of San Carlos.

**The Parachute Regiment** attached with other units including a reinforced troop from The Blues and Royals. It was agreed that an extra army brigade should be made available as soon as possible.

**On 2 May 1982** the British task force reached the Falkland Islands.



France 1969 commemorative 0.45 F. Perf. 13 (sg:FR 1837)

Five attacks were made on Argentine occupied by RAF Vulcan B Mk 2 bombers. These attacks were code-named 'Black Buck' and each flight from Ascension Island required numerous in-flight refueling sorties by **Victor K Mk 2**.



France 1969 commemorative 0.45 F. Perf. 13 (sg:FR 1834)

Ascension Island commemorative 35 p. Perf. 13% (Mi:AC 1001)

**On 14 June 1982** By early morning all assaults successful; With Stanley surrounded, Argentine forces surrendered with the Royal Marines of 40 Commando raising the British flag on West Falkland to mark the end of the conflict.

**Belligerents:** United Kingdom vs Argentina

**Date:** 2 April – 14 June 1982

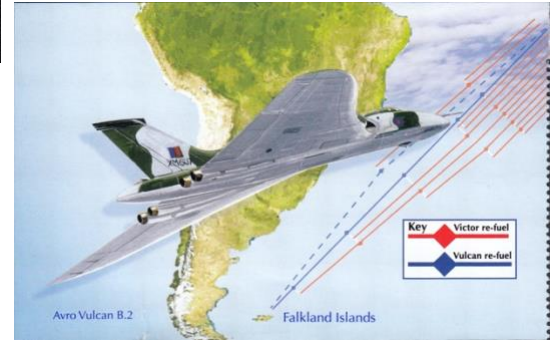
**Location:** Falkland Islands

**Result:** British victory



Ascension Island commemorative 40 p. Perf. 13% (sg:AC 967)

**On 5 April 1982** the first ships, including HMS Hermes, set sail towards the Falklands. In total, the task force was comprised of **127 ships** carrying a reinforced 3 Commando Brigade with 2nd and 3rd Battalions.



**The Avro Vulcan B2** over a map of the South Atlantic indicating the route from Ascension Island and the key re-fueling points for the Vulcan Bomber and Victor Tanker planes.

Image Commemorative postage souvenir sheet of the 25th Anniversary of Falklands Liberation 2007 | Reduced 20%



Ascension Island commemorative 50 p. Perf. 13% (sg:AC 968)

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Ascension Island commemorative 1.25 £. Perf. 13% (Mi:AC 1004)

## Lest We Forget

During the ten week battle a total of 255 British military personnel, and three Falkland Islanders lost their lives. Sheetlets listing the names in alphabetical order of all British forces and civilians killed for the liberation of the Islands.

View from Wireless Ridge across valley towards Mount Tumbledown.