

TALES OF HEROISM BEYOND CREDIBILITY

# Argentines are prepared for Falklands defeat

by BEN TIERNEY  
Southam News

**BUENOS AIRES** — For the Argentine man in the street the Falklands war is becoming a tale of heroes and horrors.

While up to 8,000 Argentine troops dig in for the anticipated British assault on Port Stanley, the Argentine public is being conditioned for defeat with a steady diet of news reports on how heroic their fighting men have been and how savagely aggressive the British have been.

Most of the heroic stories focus on the Argentine air force pilots who have achieved much of Argentina's success in the war with their attacks on the British fleet.

And much of the time the stories require considerable stretching of the imagination.

One recent tale, splashed across the pages of most Argentine newspapers, told of a downed Mirage pilot who somehow survived seven hours in the bitterly cold waters of the San Carlos

Strait before swimming ashore in darkness to be rescued by an Argentine patrol.

"Suddenly there was a violent vibration. I had been hit," the pilot was quoted as saying. "My airspeed indicator said 935 km per hour. I was upside down, only 15 metres above the waves when I ejected.

"Theoretically I should have been pulverized . . . but there was some sort of miracle. I did some kind of parabolic tangent and this elevated me. Then I don't know what happened, my parachute must have opened. The next thing I remember I was suddenly in very cold sea. . . ."

Another heroic tale involved a young Argentine coast guard who, after his friend was killed in an attack by two British Harrier jets, took over the ship's only gun and shot one of the Harriers down.

He was pictured in his hospital bed holding up a piece of shrapnel that doctors had taken from his body.

The most recent horror stories about the British involve prisoners of war.

Quoting mostly British sources, Argentine newspapers are telling of POWs being forced to dismantle booby-traps (cazabobos in Spanish) planted by their retreating colleagues in abandoned ammunition dumps.

The papers also claim the British are using Argentine prisoners to locate and deactivate land-mines.

"This," the newspaper La Prensa said grimly, "is against Article 53 of the Geneva Convention unless it is done voluntarily."

Earlier Argentine reports told of prisoners being herded into "cages" and "sheep-pens" before being transported to cold and ill-equipped British prison ships.

One report, attributed to the Reuters news agency, which in turn attributed the information to BBC reporters on the Falklands, said: "They are taken below to sit facing a wall with

their hands above their heads while they are being processed.

"One at a time they are brought forward to be stripped and searched, standing on a paper sack to ease the chill of the metal deck . . . each man is labelled, but the only labels available in quantity are brightly-colored baggage tags of the P and O line. . . then they are released into the hold where they spend the night . . . sleeping on a metal deck normally used for stores, trying to avoid damp patches on the floor."

The tales of horror and heroism are being accompanied by a flow of statements by high-ranking military officials which also seem designed to prepare the Argentine population for defeat at Port Stanley — or Puerto Argentino, as they call it.

While the Argentine military commander on the island exhorts his troops to not only defeat the British but "to crush them so that they will never again be cheeky enough to invade our land," the generals at home in Buenos Aires are telling the civilian population that they should not regard the loss of Port Stanley as the loss of the war.

## Talks on future held

**PARIS (AP)** — President Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are exploring the possibility of U.S. participation in an international peacekeeping force on the Falkland Islands in the wake of the conflict between Britain and Argentina.

The U.S. president and British prime minister scheduled their meeting today just hours before de-

parting for nearby Versailles for the start of an economic summit meeting of the world's industrialized democracies.

External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson of France complained Thursday that Thatcher has little interest in new negotiations to end the fighting in the South Atlantic.

Stressing the word "negotiations," Cheysson

added: "I'm a little sorry I have not heard that expression in British mouths in recent days."

The meeting between Reagan and Thatcher occurs a day after Britain forced postponement in the United Nations of a Security Council vote on an Argentine-backed resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire.

"We want a ceasefire which is inextricably linked to immediate Argentine withdrawal," said British Ambassador Anthony Parsons. "That's the assurance we want to have."

United Nations sources said the United States is active in proposing compromise amendments that would link the ceasefire to immediate Argentine withdrawal from the islands.

Thatcher, whose forces appear poised for a final assault on the last Argentine stronghold in the Falklands, has suggested that the United States, which had tried prevent the fighting, has an obligation to help keep the peace once it is re-established.



Mating dance

Crane expert George Archibald imitates a crane's mating dance for whooping crane Tex, mother of Gee Whiz which hatched in Brabbo, Wis., Tuesday.

## U.S. 'tilt' disputed

An analysis by GLENN SOMERVILLE  
**WASHINGTON (CP)** — A simmering dispute between top Reagan administration officials over Washington's pro-British tilt in the Falklands conflict highlights mounting U.S. concern over the future of relations with Latin America.

The disagreement between feisty State Secretary Alexander Haig and United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick briefly boiled into the open this week with reports the two clashed over Haig's alleged "boy's club" support for Britain.

Kirkpatrick, a former university professor who has made Argentine politics a specialty, blasted Haig during a telephone call for being "totally insensitive" to Latin cultures and acting like "Brits in American clothes," Newsweek magazine reported.

But the turf-conscious Haig, previously NATO armed forces commander in

Europe, responded that Kirkpatrick was "mentally and emotionally incapable of thinking clearly on this subject" because of her close ties to Latin America. He also accused Kirkpatrick of trespassing on his foreign policy-making prerogative.

The jousting is a measure of Reagan administration disarray in the face of an unwanted and unexpected South Atlantic conflict that has already cost the United States much goodwill in Latin America. One Latin American diplomat after another has roundly condemned the United States before the Organization of American States, warning relations are being "irreparably damaged" by American support for Britain.

President Reagan, bound by treaty and election campaign rhetoric to improve relations with U.S. neighbors, including Canada and Latin America, sounds uncertain about what lies ahead in a region where American strategic interests are strong.

## Hurricane kills 11

**FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)** — Hundreds of tourists and residents scrambled for higher ground today as a rare June tropical storm that had been the first hurricane of the season hovered off southwest Florida. Havana radio reported the storm killed 11 people in Cuba.

Alberto, which battered Key West with high winds and torrential rains, was downgraded to a tropical storm from a hurricane early today as the cool June water in the Gulf of Mexico and the prevailing westerly winds sapped its strength.

The storm was reported nearly stationary in the gulf today about 300 kilometres

southwest of Fort Myers. Its highest winds, clocked at 130 km-h Thursday, had dropped below 100 km-h, well under the 120 km-h needed for hurricane classification.

Heavy rains and winds that swept Cuba in Alberto's wake resulted in at least 10 drownings and one man was electrocuted, said a Havana Radio broadcast monitored in Miami.

Six people were missing and some 50,000 Cubans were evacuated from the Pinar del Rio area of western Cuba, the report said. "Serious damages" were reported to homes and crops in the tobacco-rich region.

## Sophia released early

**CASERTA, Italy (AP)** — A handful of fans and reporters kept an all-night vigil hoping to see actress Sophia Loren leave prison today after serving 16 days of her 30-day sentence for tax evasion.

Judicial sources said a court order would be issued today allowing Loren to go home for good.

A judicial committee in Naples of three judges, a social worker and a psychiatrist on Thursday granted Loren semi-liberty — meaning that she could leave the prison during the day and return at night.

The 47-year-old actress returned to Italy after a two-year absence to begin serving her sentence.

## Child beater sentenced

**SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)** — A 23-year-old Spokane man who beat his 3-month-old son until the child was blind and mentally retarded, was sentenced to 10 years in prison Thursday.

"In many respects, the child would be better off if it had not lived," said Spokane County Superior Court Judge William J. Grant as he sentenced John Robert Knight.

Knight had pleaded guilty to second-degree assault.

"Here we have a youngster not even a year old now, who will go through life totally blind and mentally retarded as a result of your beating."

Given an opportunity to speak on his own behalf, Knight shrugged and said, "I ain't got nothin' to say."

Knight yawned as he was led out of the

courtroom, past the unwed, pregnant teen-age mother of the victim.

The child, Aaron J. Hayward, has been taken from his mother by the state and placed in a foster home.

According to testimony, the baby's mother left the infant with Knight on Dec. 28, 1981. When she returned, the baby was screaming and suffering convulsions, she said.

She took him to a hospital, where doctors reported a fractured skull, six broken ribs and hemorrhages in the brain and eyes.

Knight told the court he "was smoking marijuana and lost my temper and purposely dropped Aaron" on Dec. 17. But Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Patricia Thompson said medical reports show the child was injured on Dec. 28.

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## Israeli ambassador wounded

**LONDON (AP)** — Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov was reported in critical condition today after being shot through the brain by an Arab gunman in London on Thursday night. Israeli planes launched retaliation raids on Palestinian Arab strongholds in Lebanon.

The air raids came 15 hours after the shooting, which Israeli officials denounced as "a criminal attack by Arab terrorists." The Palestine Liberation Organization denied responsibility for the shooting.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said four men arrested after the shooting are two Jordanians, one Iraqi and a Syrian. But the spokesman declined to identify the gunman, who was taken to hospital after being shot in the neck by police. None of the four suspects was named by the Yard.

Earlier, the British domestic news agency Press Association described the suspects as Palestinians carrying false passports.

Argov, 52, was shot Thursday night as he left the swank Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, where he had been attending a dinner for diplomats. Greville Janner, a family friend, said Argov has not regained consciousness.