



H.M.S. Argonaut



Audax omnia perpeti - Bold to endure

ISSUE 03-06

NEWSLETTER - MERRY CHRISTMAS

Reunion

Well this years reunion had a disappointing turn out [39] and has made me wonder if the members want to have them in future? Those who did attend had a great time and I thank them for their support.

The next reunion will be held in **Plymouth** at The Royal Fleet Club on the 18th August 2007. I have made this decision for a few reasons.

1. 2007 will be the 25th anniversary of the Falklands conflict and I feel it appropriate to hold the reunion along with a service of remembrance [TBC] in Plymouth this year as Devonport was the Leander's home port.
2. As many of our older members are finding it more difficult to travel and our younger ones don't attend the reunion when held in Portsmouth I hope using Plymouth will encourage more Leander crew to attend the reunion and join the Association.

Room rates for the RFC are as follows:

£29.00 per night for a single room with breakfast

£58.00 per night for a double room with breakfast

Rooms have been saved for our members so to book please call 01752 562723 and quote the price above.

The cost of each ticket for 2007 is **£16.00** this is a saving on the 2006 price. I will publish more in the next newsletter.

SAMA82 (www.sama82.org)

SAMA82 began its existence on April 2nd 1997, the fifteenth anniversary of the uninvited arrival of Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands. Soon afterwards, a task force was assembled in Great Britain and dispatched to the South Atlantic to restore Her Majesty's Sovereignty. On June 14 1982, Major General Jeremy Moore was able to announce to the world that the Falkland Islands were once again living under the Government of their choice. Seventy four days of occupancy had elapsed.

Since those heady days 15 years ago many things have changed. The Islanders now have a measure of economic independence, and the geography of the capital, Stanley, has been radically reshaped. There is now a new airport complex, integrated with the garrison which continues to defend the Falklands against any aggressor. But most of the Task Force members also had their lives altered. Just under 780 were wounded, with injuries ranging from minor shrapnel scratches, through disfiguring burns, to amputation and loss of a limb or limbs.

Even those who were not wounded physically found that they had changed on their return home. A few were suffering from the cluster of severe symptoms known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; others merely had disturbed dreams. For nearly all veterans of the short but sharp South Atlantic conflict, November 11th's Remembrance Sunday now became an intense emotional experience, along with feelings of sadness and loss on specific anniversaries such as the land battles of Goose Green, Mount Harriet, Tumbledown, Two Sisters, Wireless Ridge and Mount Longdon - or the death in action of a friend and comrade elsewhere, perhaps at sea, or closer to shore at Fitzroy Cove, or in the Battle of San Carlos Water. Three Falkland Islanders also died in the fighting; two hundred and forty nine members of the Task Force did not return to their homes ...

All these people are united in one thing. They, or their next-of-kin, received from Her Majesty's Government the South Atlantic Medal. It was awarded to all personnel who took part in operations in the South Atlantic for the liberation of South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. To qualify, the recipient had to have at least one full day's service in the Falkland Islands or South Georgia, or thirty days in the South Atlantic operational zone, including Ascension Island. Additionally, those who qualified under the first condition were awarded a rosette to wear on the medal ribbon.

What is perhaps surprising is that nearly 30,000 of these medals were awarded, underpinning the Government's seriousness in terms of generating the forces needed to carry out the difficult task of dislodging the Argentine invaders. The breakdown of medal awards was: Royal Navy 13,000; Royal Marines 3,700; Royal Fleet Auxiliary 2,000; Army 7,000; Royal Air Force 2,000 and Merchant Navy/Civilian 2,000.

The main purposes of SAMA82 are simply stated. We intend to maintain and promote a sense of pride and comradeship among all veterans of the South Atlantic campaign, and to keep them in touch with each other in a manner which respects both individual privacy and personal requirements. We also want to establish and maintain contact with other organisations involved in the welfare of the armed forces, and ensure that due consideration is given to the interests of South Atlantic veterans. SAMA82 will also investigate for consideration, by an appropriate organisation, any case of hardship or distress amongst South Atlantic veterans in which direct financial assistance is sought or recommended.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly for the majority of SAMA82's members, we desire most strongly to re-establish and strengthen links with the people of the Falkland Islands.

POW's In Tawian

"For the attention of Cruiser Argonauts"

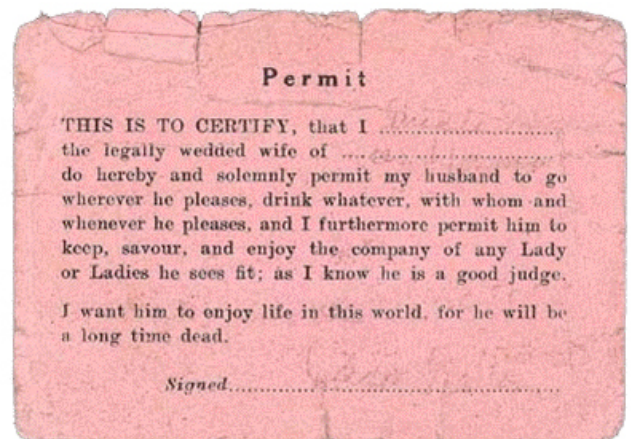
Bill Proctor MBE. has asked me to inform you that he has been in correspondence with someone in Taiwan (Formosa) who helps ex POW's that were held in Formosa during the war. They have said that had it not been for the Argonaut reaching Keelung on the 6th September 1945 many more POW's would have died from the neglect and ill-treatment of the enemy.

I would like to add that many peoples lives were effected by being held prisoner of war and the Argonaut and her crew should be whole heartedly congratulated for the part they played in getting our men home.



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Pink Ticket



Navy slang refers to the 'pink ticket' as 'the metaphorical card of permission obtained by a married officer from his wife to enable him to join in an evening entertainment at which she will not be present'.

These pink tickets have a mythical status and are not generally thought to exist. However, one set of papers recently donated to the Naval Museum in Portsmouth included a pink ticket, with very precise instructions, which was actually printed and was carried by an officer in 1944.

HMS Argonaut Westlant 91

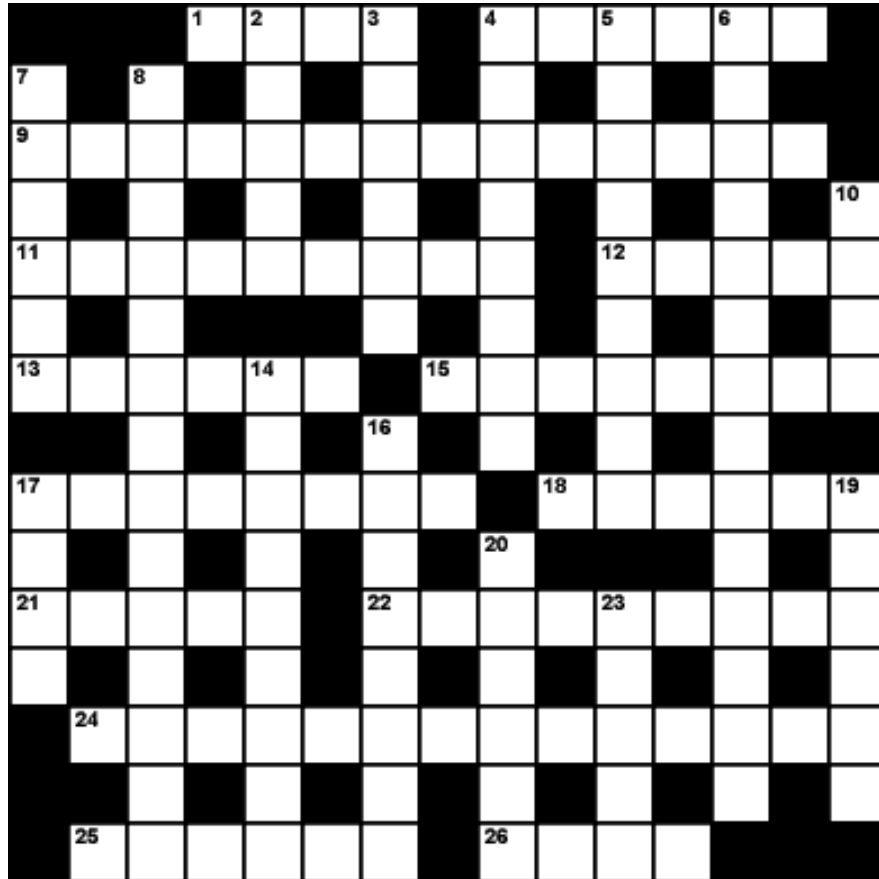
HMS Argonaut sailed with HMS Broadsword for the states in 1991 this a list of a few of the things she did in February :

Feb 91
 3rd Azores for fuel (with Broadsword)
 5th - 11th Passage
 11th Bermuda for fuel (with Broadsword)
 12th - 14th Passage
 14th - 18th Key West (Drug Ops brief) with Broadsword))
 18th - 22nd Passage / Operation Ocean Tracker (drug smuggling operations)
 22nd - 26th Maracaibo (Venezuela) Defence Sales))
 26th Passex with Venezuelan Navy
 26th - 2nd March Operation Ocean Tracker (drug smuggling operations)

Artic Star

Apologies for the mistake concerning the address for the application of the Artic Star the correct address is as follows

Defence Services Secretary - Honours 1
 Ministry of Defence
 Level 8
 Main Building
 Horse Guards Avenue
 London
 SW1A 2HB



Across

- 1 Active term or detailed note sent back [4]
- 4 I meant to reform - but too late! [6]
- 9, 14dn Answer that's relatively fluid! [5,2,7,4,5]
- 11 Hot treacle will begin to melt in the revolution [9]
- 12 Hated method of conclusion [5]
- 13 Sport shook tin, but was externally modest [6]
- 15 Ms working with a small boy [8]
- 17 In a rut again? Try new recipe [2,6]
- 18 Road Ray's picking to reach woodland creatures [6]
- 21 Bird with overcoat elicits sympathy [5]
- 22 She rescues a drug file from destruction [9]
- 24 HeOs lacking in values, critics will say [4,10]
- 25 Solution that lacks unity [6]
- 26 Sartre knew content of *The Odyssey* [4]

Down

- 2 Done out of point by fund [5]
- 3 Put request into wager on Trug... [6]
- 4 ...his renal failure needs medical devices [8]
- 5 Adonis almost came unstuck in this old region [9]
- 6 Extremely good example of over-pampered pet? [3,4,7]
- 7 It used to count for something [6]
- 8 Climbing on train: to get here? [8,6]
- 10 Beat up the feature [4]
- 14 see 9ac
- 16 Call eleven Boys' Brigade recruits for the good book... [8]
- 17 ...members also need weapons [4]
- 19 Teased about being dull [6]
- 20 Try to be very strong about rote [6]
- 23 Type of green construction [5]

Answers in the next Newsletter.

Lost Shipmates

Bill Procter MBE would like to know the names of those cruiser Argonauts who died on the second commission. He believes there were four.

One fell overboard when the Argonaut was in dry dock at Alexandria. Two died from illness in Sydney and the fourth also died of an illness at Port Lincoln [Adelaide].

Can any second commission member give the name and rank of those who died?

Bill would also like to know the name and rank of the seamen who fell overboard while refuelling at sea from a tanker in the Pacific? He was rescued by a destroyer and return to Argonaut later.

If you can help please contact me.

Hunt for the golden fleece



Whilst on holiday in Wales Association member Derek Harrison visited a splendid pub called "The Ship" in Anglesey. Whilst waiting for his drink he glanced up to see the Argonauts Crest.

I would have thought that many of you have handed these crests out over the years [anything for a free drink.] I wonder if anyone else has seen a crest in a pub or in an even stranger place.

The member with the strangest place [proof needed] wins a prize.

If you know of any drop me a line at the usual address and I will put it in the Newsletter.

Thank you Derek for your picture.

China Station 1900 - 1903



E J Worsfold

Ernest James Worsfold was orphaned at the age of 10 joined the Royal Navy in 1891 aged just 15. Ernest served on board HMS Argonaut as an Able Seaman while the ship was on China station 1900–1903. On board he was tasked with being the ships photographer and below are just some of the photographs he took. Ernest was mentioned in Dispatches for his service in the Great War 1914 - 1918 and his name published in the London Gazette on the 17th March 1919. Ernest left the Navy in 1922 when he retired a Lt Cdr he passed away in 1949.

These photographs were provided by Ernest's Grandson [Bob Worsfold] who is a member of the Association.



Rum Ration



Argonauts Theatrical Party
"Love in a Copper"



Argonauts crew diving on HMS Sandpiper in Hong Kong. HMS Sandpiper sank during a typhoon one man drowned. In the same storm a dredger and hundreds of Chinese junks capsised.



HMS Argonaut (not taken by Ernest)

We Remember

Unfortunately I have to inform you that I have been contacted by Doreen Phillips to say that her husband Ted Phillips passed away early this year. Ted served on the cruiser and had not been a member of the Association for long. The Association and it's members send their condolences to Doreen and her family.

New Joiners

George Stansfield

George was a member of the Association in the 80's but left us some time back now. I'm glad to say that he has joined our ranks once again and attended the reunion in Portsmouth. George served on the Cruiser Argonaut and is a book of knowledge when it comes to who served onboard.

Tag Gorton

Tag was a member of the Falklands crew he Joined the Argonaut in 1979 as a POWEM(O) and left in 1982 on the ships return from the Falklands as a CWEM(O). Tag is now a writer and journalist based in the South West.

Mick Hawley

Mick was the POWTR on board the Frigate at the same time I was on board until decommissioning in 1993. I contacted Mick when buying some of the Items for the raffle at this years reunion on e-bay.

Wynn Jones

Wynn was also on the Frigate during the Falklands and served as a POMEM he now lives in Canada. Since joining the Association Wynn has made contact with existing member Dave Townsend DSM.

Mrs Janette Mark

Janette contacted the Association looking for information on her Grandfather Oliver James who she believed served on the Diadem Cruiser whilst on China Station. I have provided a photo copy of the book that records that deployment in 1900 along with some of the photographs we have of that time

Ian Middleton

Ian served on Argonaut from 1981 - 1986. Ian joined in Devonport as a MEM(M)1 and served down the Falklands he continued to serve onboard until drafted to the Gibraltar Squadron however there paths did cross again in 86 while Argonaut refuelled in Gibraltar.

Henry Coltman

Henry joined the Argonaut in 1938 he originally comes from Leicester but now lives in Florida USA with his wife Doris he would love to hear of other members that remember him.

Paul Cox

Paul was on the Argonaut from 1980 until 1981 he found the Association on the internet and wanted to join if any of our members know Paul please contact me and I will put you in touch.

So five new frigate members have joined and I hope that more will in the near future.

25th Commemorative Year of the Falklands War (1982)

Local & National Events & Venues

Saturday 24th February	Warrant Officers & Senior Rates SNCO's Mess HMS SULTAN Gosport	Charity 'RN Style' Horse Race Evening All proceeds in support of the FVF - £5.00 per person	FVF - Les Heyhoe Tel. 023 9251 1582 les@fvf.org.uk Tel. 023 9235 7181 (Home) les@heyhoe.com (Home)
Friday 16th March	HMS DRAKE Devonport	Commemorative Dinner for all crews of Devonport based ships involved in the conflict	TBA
Sunday 25th March	National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas Staffs.	South Atlantic Medal Association (1982) - AGM, Lunch & Service Dedication of memorial bench and plaque - SAMA82 members are invited to attend - contact the Organiser for full details.	John 'Joe' Erskine AGM & Reunion Organiser 8 Grosvenor Court 74 East Lodge Park Farlington Portsmouth Hants PO6 1BY Tel. 023 9279 1258 john.erskine1@ntlworld.com

25th Commemorative Year of the Falklands War (1982)

Local & National Events & Venues

Saturday 31st March until end 2007	Royal Naval Museum Portsmouth	A New Exhibition to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands conflict. One of the main themes of the exhibition will be stories from veterans of the war, so the RNM wants to let as many people who were involved in 1982 know about the exhibition. In the initial planning stages at the moment.	Stephen Courtney Royal Naval Museum HM Naval Base (PP66) Portsmouth PO1 3NH Tel No 023 9272 7578
Friday 6th April T.B.C	Wardroom HMS SULTAN T.B.C. Gosport	'Task Force 25 Commemorative Dinner' to honour the crews & their families & ships that sailed from Portsmouth 5 th April 1982 and in support of the FVF.	FVF - Les Heyhoe Tel. 023 9251 1582 les@fvf.org.uk Tel. 023 9235 7181 (Home) les@heyhoe.com
Thursday 14th June	Pangbourne Chapel Reading Berkshire	25th Remembrance Service at The Falklands Islands Memorial Chapel with HM QEII present With a capacity of 600 only 100 tickets will be available so apply to receive tickets now & receive the newsletter in February 2007	Mrs Angela Perry MInstF Wroxton Mill Shutford Road Wroxton Banbury Oxfordshire OX15 6EZ Tel. 01295 738 123 www.falklands-chapel.org.uk
Saturday 16th June	Harlequins Twickenham Stoop Stadium Middlesex	Falklands Rugby Task Force XV versus Penguins International RFC All proceeds in support of SAMA82 – see website for full information and details	David Pearcy Chairman Falklands Task Force Rugby dave.pearcy@btinternet.com
Sunday 17th June	Horse guards Parade London	Drumhead Ceremony & Falklands Veterans March Past along the Mall for a Royal Salute with a 'Fly Past'	www.falklands25.com
Sunday 17th June	St James's Park London	Reception for Veterans & Families – Please note Limited Numbers.	TBC 023 92 511582 email:reception@fvf.org.uk
Saturday 30th June	RAF Waddington Lincoln	Air Show – a.m. Memorial Service outside 'A' Hangar which will be turned into a 1982 Museum of equipment with the surrounding area of aircraft – Volunteers are sought to assist manning the exhibitions. Show entry cost per person approx. £13.00	Peter Cobbold RAF Regiment Email: petercobbs@fsmail.net

I will publish more events in the next newsletter.

Photo Corner



Dido Class Argonaut entering Malta.
[Can you identify the ship behind her]



Leander Class Argonaut entering Plymouth after her voyage from the Falklands 1982. You can see the bomb damage just below the Exorcet.



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History at it's best

Please send any comments, stories or your pictures to the address on the left.

The Association is open to all. You do not have to have served on the ships you just need to have an interest in history.

Adam Phillips (Flipper)
Association Secretary

PLEASE EMAIL THE ASSOCIATION IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE NEWSLETTER EMAILED TO YOU.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME from the BBC Peoples War website (is the second one true?)

Contributed by [Peter G Dixon](#)
People in story: F/O John E.F. (JEF) Dixon
Location of story: Sumburgh to Murmansk
Background to story: Royal Air Force
Article ID: A2019412
Contributed on: 11 November 2003

4th September 1942. Flew from Sumburgh (Shetland) to Vaanga (Murmansk). Of the 32 aircraft that flew out from Sumburgh only 22 reached Russia. 10 aircraft were lost en route as a result of enemy action or accident. Many more lost on the ground in Russia by bombing. The object of the exercise was to attack enemy shipping. We made a mass formation sweep of the Barants Sea at just a few hundred feet over seven hours duration. No ships, enemy or otherwise were sighted. The German Pocket battleship "Tirpitz" was said to be sheltering in a northern Norwegian Fjord but it did not show itself during our two month stay in Russia. Our own Hampden was destroyed by enemy bombing only a few weeks after arrival. Bombing raids on the aircraft were quite frequent. We were based within the Artic Circle and I (my father) recalls a lot of cold clear weather. Because of prevailing winds, flying back to UK was out of the question and such as our Hampdens survived the enemy bombing were handed over to the Russians. I should add that the Hampdens had been adapted for torpedo carrying.

We finally left Russia on an evening at the end of October 1942. Snow was falling as we were ferried out to the cruiser HMS Argonaut, a newly commissioned ship. We were escorted by 2 destroyers as far as Iceland and then completed our journey to UK unescorted. We took turns on watch whilst on the Argonaut - a very cold job! The sea journey was uneventful and apart from the occasional German aircraft shadowing us we saw no enemy action. The mission from a military view point was insignificant and achieved little, but for me and my colleagues it was a memorable experience.

Contributed by [Jim Arnison](#)
People in story: Jim Arnison
Location of story: The Pacific Ocean on board HMS Argonaut
Background to story: Royal Navy
Article ID: A2252864
Contributed on: 01 February 2004

During the Second World War each night at sea in the Royal Navy the practice was for the Officer of the Day to do his 'rounds' of the lower deck. This story is about one such ceremony aboard the light cruiser HMS Argonaut while in the Pacific.

For the 'rounds' the Mess Deck had to be clean and, under the table at each small mess (averaging ten Ratings), was the 'Gash Bucket' in which all the slops from the day's meals were emptied. This bucket had to be empty and scrubbed clean prior to the nightly inspection. The Officer of the Day's arrival was signalled by a blast on a bugle and the Officer was accompanied by a Petty Officer. On this occasion the officer in question had obviously indulged somewhat overly on the Wardroom's pink gins. As he reached Ten mess he decided to demonstrate that he was in total command of his faculties. Having glared at the ten of us he went down on his haunches and closely inspected the Gash Bucket. As he did so a baby penguin waddled along right under his nose. He looked quickly up at us but we were all at attention and staring straight ahead. His gaze swung to the Petty Officer and thence to the Bugler but they too had their eyes fixed straight ahead. The officer shook his head as if to clear his vision, looked again at the floor, the penguin had disappeared behind some lockers. He straightened, mumbled; "Carry on" and went back up the ladder, whether to consume more pink gins or to forswear all alcohol is not recorded. As to how a penguin came to be aboard a Royal Navy Cruiser in the middle of the Pacific ocean — well, that's another story.

Also see : <http://www.bbc.co.uk/www2peopleswar/stories/31/a2478431.shtml>