

May I ask THE REVEREND DAVID COOPER,  
Padre of 2 Para to say GRACE.

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH  
AT THE  
DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS  
OF THE FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN

My Lord Mayor,

TOMORROW, IN THE CITY OF LONDON, THE NATION WILL SHOW  
OUR GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION TO THE TASK FORCE /  
WHOSE MAGNIFICENT DEEDS LIBERATED THE PEOPLE  
OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FROM OCCUPATION / AND  
RECOVERED SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTHERN THULE.

TONIGHT IS A MORE PRIVATE OCCASION.

I WANTED SOME OF YOU - AND IT COULD ONLY BE  
SOME - WHO FACED THE AWESOME DANGERS OF THE  
BATTLEFIELD - TO COME TOGETHER WITH A FEW  
OF US HERE / WHO, / CONSCIOUS OF OUR GREAT  
RESPONSIBILITIES, / TOOK THE DECISIONS YOU  
NEEDED FOR SUCCESS.

and to join with our splendid representatives  
in the U.S. M.N. / TOGETHER WE  
who pronounce us such a  
courageous forthright manner,

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TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE ONE OF THE MOST  
REMARKABLE EVENTS IN MODERN TIMES.

I CHOOSE THOSE WORDS DELIBERATELY.

AFTER ANY WAR, THE DETRACTORS APPEAR.

THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO SAY THAT WE EXAGGERATE  
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN.

BUT THE COUNTRY WILL NOT AGREE WITH THEM.

THE COUNTRY KNOWS THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE  
SOUTH ATLANTIC BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE WAS

~~IMPORTANT~~ A BRILLIANT MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT  
AND A GREAT REASSERTION OF NATIONAL SPIRIT,  
VITALITY, AND CONFIDENCE.

/ AS THE DUKE

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AS THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON SAID:

"THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A LITTLE WAR  
FOR A GREAT NATION".

THOSE WHO FOUGHT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, / THOSE WHO  
DIRECTED AND SUPPORTED THE EFFORT FROM LONDON,  
HAVE MADE HISTORY,

TONIGHT WE DINE IN A HOUSE, INDEED IN A ROOM,  
WHICH HAS BEEN AT THE CENTRE OF MUCH OF OUR  
COUNTRY'S HISTORY,

AND THE FUTURE OF THE FALKLANDS HAS BEEN  
DISCUSSED IN <sup>No. 10</sup> ~~THIS BUILDING~~ MORE OFTEN THAN IS  
COMMONLY RECOGNISED,

/ NO-ONE KNOWS

*Cabinet room.*

NO-ONE KNOWS FOR CERTAIN WHO FIRST SET EYES ON THAT  
ARCHIPELAGO SO FAR IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC,  
BUT THE GREAT ENGLISH NAVIGATORS, HAWKINS  
AND DAVIES, HAVE AS GOOD A CLAIM AS ANY.

THEN, IN 1690, CAPTAIN STRONG SAILED THROUGH THE  
STRAIT BETWEEN THE TWO MAIN ISLANDS WHICH  
HE NAMED FALKLAND SOUND AFTER THE THEN  
TREASURER OF THE NAVY.

/ BY THE WAY,

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BY THE WAY, DOES THE NAVY STILL HAVE A TREASURER?

I KNOW WE STILL HAVE OUR CAPTAINS STRONG.

By 1766 BRITAIN HAD ESTABLISHED A COLONY AT PORT

EGMONT OF ABOUT 100 PEOPLE.

ALAS, THEIR PEACE ~~TOO~~ WAS INVADED WHEN IN

1770 AN OVERWHELMINGLY SUPERIOR SPANISH

SQUADRON SAILED FROM BUENOS AIRES AND

FORCED THE BRITISH SETTLERS TO LEAVE.

/ WHEN THE NEWS

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED LONDON THERE WAS A PUBLIC  
OUTCRY.

THIS ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST BRITISH SUBJECTS  
AND BRITISH TERRITORY WAS NOT TO BE  
TOLERATED.

IN HIS BOOK "THOUGHTS ON THE LATE TRANSACTIONS  
RESPECTING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS" DR. JOHNSON  
DESCRIBES HOW IN RECORD TIME THE NAVY MOUNTED  
A MASSIVE EXPEDITION:-

"THE NAVY WAS SURVEYED, THE SHIPS  
REFITTED AND COMMANDERS APPOINTED,  
AND A POWERFUL FLEET WAS ASSEMBLED,  
WELL-MANNED AND WELL-STORED, WITH

/ EXPEDITION



EXPEDITION AFTER SO LONG A PEACE  
PERHAPS NEVER KNOWN BEFORE, AND WITH  
VIGOUR WHICH . . . . . SCARCELY ANY OTHER  
NATION HAD BEEN CAPABLE OF EXERTING."

THE PHRASES AND THE FEELING HAVE A FAMILIAR  
RING. *more than two centuries later*

APPARENTLY THEN, TOO, THERE WERE A FEW  
NOISY DOUBTERS WHO, DR. JOHNSON SAID, "YELLED  
WITH HYPOCRITICAL LAMENTATION".

BUT, AS HE REPORTED, "THE VIGOUR AND SPIRIT  
OF THE MINISTRY EASILY BROKE THROUGH ALL THE  
MACHINATIONS OF THESE PYGMY REBELS, AND OUR  
ARMAMENT WAS QUICKLY SUCH AS WAS LIKELY TO  
MAKE OUR NEGOTIATIONS EFFECTUAL".

/ON THAT

ON THAT OCCASION NEGOTIATIONS BACKED BY THE THREAT

OF FORCE PROVED SUCCESSFUL.

THE BRITISH PRESENCE IN THE FALKLANDS WAS

RESTORED.

BRITISH RIGHTS WERE UPHELD AND BRITAIN'S

REPUTATION RE-ESTABLISHED.

OUR ATTENTIONS WERE THEN DIVERTED ELSEWHERE AND

OTHERS MOVED IN, BUT IN 1833 WE RE-ESTABLISHED

THE COLONY.

WE HAVE BEEN THERE EVER SINCE.

FOR DECADES, THE FALKLANDERS ENJOYED A PEACEFUL

AND UNINTERRUPTED EXISTENCE.

/ BUT GEOGRAPHY

BUT GEOGRAPHY WAS NOT TO LEAVE THEM ALONE  
FOR LONG.

WITH THE OUTBREAK OF WAR IN 1914 THERE WAS  
A DETERMINED ATTEMPT BY THE ROYAL NAVY TO  
DRIVE THE GERMANS FROM THE OCEANS.

THE CRUCIAL BATTLE TOOK PLACE JUST OFF THE

FALKLANDS.

UNDER ADMIRAL STURDEE'S FLAGSHIP - HMS INVINCIBLE -

(WHO SAID HISTORY DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF?) THE

GERMAN SQUADRON UNDER ADMIRAL VON SPEE WAS

CAUGHT AND SUNK.

/WINSTON CHURCHILL

WINSTON CHURCHILL SAID:-

"NO GERMAN SHIPS OF WAR REMAINED ON ANY  
OF THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD. THE RESULT  
..... WAS FAR REACHING AND AFFECTED  
SIMULTANEOUSLY OUR POSITION IN EVERY PART  
OF THE GLOBE."

THE SECOND WORLD WAR ALSO AFFECTED THE FALKLANDS.

THE ISLANDS EXPERIENCED THE PRESENCE OF A  
BRITISH GARRISON AND PROVIDED VALUABLE  
LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE SQUADRON WHICH  
HUNTED AND DESTROYED THE GRAF SPEE AT THE  
BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE.

/ IN THIS

HMS

IN THIS ENGAGEMENT, EXETER FOUGHT WHAT CHURCHILL CALLED

"ONE OF THE FINEST AND THE MOST RESOLUTE  
ACTIONS AGAINST SUPERIOR RANGE AND METAL  
ON RECORD.

SHE THEN LIMPED BACK TO THE FALKLANDS,  
HAVING BEEN REPLACED BY THE CUMBERLAND WHICH  
HAD EARLIER RE-FITTED IN THE ISLANDS.

THE SOVIET UNION, ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT WHICH OTHERS  
HAVE FOLLOWED, ANNOUNCED THAT THE EXETER HAD  
BEEN SUNK OFF THE ARGENTINE COAST.

NOT SO.

EXETER RETURNED SAFELY AND CHURCHILL VISITED  
HER IN PLYMOUTH HARBOUR.

/ AFTER THAT

AFTER THAT EVENT THE FALKLANDS RESUMED THEIR  
PEACEFUL LIFE UNTIL 2 APRIL 1982.

EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM HAS HIS OWN STORY  
TO TELL ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED  
THE INVASION.

AN OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THOSE LONG DAYS AND  
NIGHTS IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE WILL COME TO  
BE WRITTEN.

MOST OF THE EVENTS ARE WELL ENOUGH KNOWN  
ALREADY.

DESPITE THE CRITICISM OF RESTRAINTS ON THE  
MEDIA, NO CAMPAIGN HAS EVER BEEN SO FULLY  
OR SO QUICKLY REPORTED - OR <sup>none</sup> ~~NONE~~ ANXIOUSLY  
FOLLOWED NIGHT AFTER NIGHT BY OUR PEOPLE.

/ THE HISTORIAN

THE HISTORIAN WILL RECORD THE FACTS WITH  
RELATIVE EASE.

BUT BEYOND THE FACTS LIES THE SPIRIT OF THE  
FALKLANDS.

OR IS IT THE SPIRIT OF BRITAIN WHICH THROUGHOUT  
HISTORY HAS NEVER FAILED US IN DIFFICULT DAYS?

YOU REMEMBER THAT T.S. ELIOT ONCE SAID:

"A PEOPLE WITHOUT HISTORY IS NOT REDEEMED  
FROM TIME, FOR HISTORY IS A PATTERN OF  
TIMELESS MOMENTS."

TIMELESS MOMENTS - AND TIMELESS QUALITIES.

/ - COURAGE

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- COURAGE AND VIRTUE ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE;
- DEDICATION TO A CAUSE GREATER THAN OURSELVES;
- THE NOBILITY OF COMMAND, FIRM IN PURPOSE,  
STRONG IN HUMANITY;
- THE TRIUMPH OF RESOLVE OVER DOUBT.

TONIGHT WE GRIEVE FOR THOSE WHO DIED.

WE THINK OF THOSE WHO WERE WOUNDED.

AND WE SALUTE THE MAGNIFICENT HEROISM SHOWN

BY EVERYONE IN THE FALKLANDS STORY.

*AND WE CELEBRATE VICTORY.*

I MUST RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO PAY TRIBUTES TO

INDIVIDUAL HEROES.

BUT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IF I SAY A SPECIAL

WORD ABOUT THE RETIRING CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE

STAFF, SIR TERENCE LEWIN.

/ FROM THE



FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, UNTIL THE VERY END,  
HE WAS A PILLAR OF STRENGTH TO ME AND TO ALL  
OF US HERE - HIS CALM, HIS INSIGHT AND HIS  
QUIET AND STEADY RESOLVE WERE NEVER FAILING.

*you*  
TERRY, WE SALUTE YOU, FOR THIS GREAT COMMAND WHICH  
CROWNS A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO QUEEN AND  
COUNTRY. *you* *Honour is richly*  
*deserved.*  
*So it is with great pride.*

I NOW ASK YOU ALL TO RISE AND JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO:-

*RE*  
HER MAJESTY'S ARMED SERVICES AND THE

MERCHANT MARINE, COUPLED WITH THE NAME OF *Admiral*

SIR TERENCE LEWIN.