



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

*Dear Air Chief Marshal*

I am most grateful for the contribution made by the Royal Air Force to the success and pleasure of my recent visit to the Falklands.

I have written separately to Group Captain Wilson in Port Stanley and letters have been sent on my behalf to the pilot and crew of the aircraft in which I and my party travelled. But the whole operation, especially the air bridge from Ascension to Port Stanley clearly involved other aircraft whose pilots and crews we had no opportunity to meet. I should be grateful if my thanks could be forwarded to them and to all others concerned with the planning and execution of the programme.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Margaret Thatcher*

Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, GCB, AFC., R.A.F.

*file 15*

*No photo.*

*15*



Letter to the Chief of the Air Staff

from the Prime Minister.

I am most grateful for the contribution made by the Royal Air Force to the success and pleasure of my recent visit to the Falklands.

I have written reports to Group Captain Wilkin in Port Stanley and letters have been sent on my behalf to the pilots and crews of the aircraft in which I and my party travelled. But the whole operation, especially the air bridge from Ascension to Port Stanley, is clearly ~~very~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>involved other</sup> aircraft ~~and~~ whose pilots and crews we had no opportunity to meet. I should be grateful if my thanks could be passed to them and to all other concerned with the planning and execution of the programme.





*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

*Dear Group Captain,*

I thank you, and through you all members of the Royal Air Force in the Falkland Islands, both for everything you did to make my visit so valuable and memorable and for the splendid way in which you are making your vital contribution

to the defence of the Falkland Islands — *in spite of the many difficulties under which you have to operate*

The highest traditions of the Royal Air Force are on display in the South Atlantic. Well done and many thanks.

*Yours sincerely*

*Raymond Sturt*

Group Captain R.A.F. Wilson, AFC, RAF.

*—*

*RS*



Letter to Group Captain R. A. F. Wilson AFC. RAF.  
Senior Royal Air Force Officer, Falkland Islands  
from the Prime Minister.

I thank you, and thank you all members of the  
Royal Air Force in the Falkland Islands, both  
for everything you did to make my visit so  
valuable and memorable and for the splendid  
way in which you are ~~carrying out~~ making your  
vital contribution to the defence of the Falkland Islands.  
The highest traditions of the Royal Air Force are on  
display in the South Atlantic. Well done and  
many thanks.





10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 1983

*Dear Group Captain,*

Thank you very much indeed for receiving us so warmly at Ascension on our return from the Falkland Islands. It was kind of you to arrange a reception for us. Denis and I much enjoyed meeting your guests and also the various representatives of the armed forces who greeted us on arrival.

I wish you all continued success and good fortune in the important work which you are doing.

*Yours sincerely*

*Raymond Stelter*

---

Group Captain R.C. Parker, R.A.F.

*B*



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. C. M.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 January 1983

The Prime Minister has signed three First Day Covers for your three sons and I have much pleasure in enclosing them.

It was extremely nice to meet you during our visit to the Falkland Islands. I hope we shall meet again in the not too distant future. Meanwhile, good luck.

A. J. COLES

Group Captain Wilson, A.F.C., R.A.F.  
Senior Royal Air Force Officer  
Falkland Islands





10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Would you be prepared to  
sign each of these 3  
first-day covers for the 3  
sons of Prof - Captain Sandy  
Wilson (OC RAF Port Stanley).

A J L. 13.



10 DOWNING STREET

Group Captain Sandy Wilson AFC  
Senior Royal Air Force Officer  
Falkland Islands

10th January 1983

*Dear Group Capt. Wilson,*

Just a note to say thank you very much for making it possible for me to visit RAF Stanley today.

I found it extremely interesting and a most welcome diversion from my normal duties.

Please pass on my special thanks to Flight Lieutenant Simon Wilmhurst-Smith OCGD for his time and patience in explaining and pointing out to me the many different aspects of life throughout the Station at this present time. This has given me a better understanding of the many problems which you all face.

This was my first visit to an RAF Station proper and to have had the opportunity of seeing the Station in operation in these particular circumstances is something which I will always remember.

Once again, many thanks for the privilege.

A Logan  
Duty Clerk  
Prime Minister's party





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

13 January 1983

*Dear Flight Lieutenant,*

Thank you very much indeed for flying the Prime Minister and her party from Brize Norton to Ascension on 7/8 January and back again on 12/13 January. Mrs Thatcher enjoyed her journey and has asked me to send you the enclosed photograph as a memento of the occasion.

*Yours sincerely*

*A. J. Walsby*

Flight Lieutenant Robbie Robinson, RAF.

13



Pilot ~~and crew~~ 1 VC 10 aircraft. (please get name for  
nod)

from A.D.C. ~~Sgt Cpr RC Parker~~

Thank you very much indeed for this the time  
limits and the way from Singapore to America on 7/8  
of January and back again on 12/13 January. Mrs. Thatcher  
enjoyed her journey and has asked me to send you the  
enclosed photograph as a memento of the occasion.





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

13 January 1983

*Dear Flight Lieutenant,*

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you most warmly for the help your detachment gave her during her visit to the Falkland Islands. We became very familiar with the Sea King and its crew and strong admirers of the professionalism of your operation. Would you please pass our thanks to all those involved, including those whom we did not meet but who were involved in back-up operations.

Mrs Thatcher thought that you might like to have the enclosed photograph.

*Yours sincerely*

*A. J. Gles.*

Flight Lieutenant J. Prince



Flight Lieutenant J. Prince

OC Seal and Rescue Detachment,

202 Squadron

RCAF, Port Hardy.

from A.S.C.

The Prince Rupert has asked me to thank you ~~and you~~  
~~and~~ most warmly for the help you detachment gave her  
during her visit to ~~the~~ the Fallhead Island.

We became very familiar with the Sea King and its  
crew and strong admirers of the professionalism of your  
operation. Would you please pass on thanks to all those  
involved, including those whom we did not meet but  
who were involved in bail-up operations.

~~As a result~~  
Mr. Thattler thought that you might like to  
have the enclosed photom.





huc

lu

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

13 January, 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to send to you and your colleagues her grateful thanks and those of her party for flying us from Ascension to Port Stanley and back with such skill and with such attention to our comfort. It is always a pleasure to fly with the Royal Air Force but this was special - the distance, the in-flight refuelling and the objective of the journey made it a particularly memorable experience. Thank you all very much.

Mrs Thatcher thought that you might like to have the enclosed photograph. She was delighted to receive the fine picture of Hercules C.1 which you kindly presented to her during the return journey.

AJC

Wing Commander Brian Warsap, R.A.F.,

47 Squadron  
RAF Lyneham  
Wiltshire

5



to Wing Commander Brian Warsaw, No. 47 Squadron,  
RAF Lyneham.

~~[The Captain of Hercules]~~

and your colleagues

The Prime Minister has asked me to send to you <sup>her</sup>  
~~I send you the~~ my grateful thanks and those of my <sup>best</sup> ~~her~~  
party for flying us from America to <sup>here</sup> ~~her~~ and  
back with such skill and with such attention to  
our comfort. It is always a pleasure to fly with the  
Royal Air Force but this was special - the distance,  
the in-flight refuelling and the objective of the ~~journey~~ <sup>journey</sup>  
made it a particularly memorable experience. Thank you all  
very much.

Mr. Thatcher thought that you will like to have the  
enclosed photograph. She was delighted to receive  
the fine picture of a Hercules C.1 which you had  
presented to her during the return journey.





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

13 January 1983

*Dear Warrant Officer,*

The Prime Minister has asked me to write to you and say that she is most grateful for your contribution to the success of her recent visit to the Falkland Islands.

Mrs Thatcher thought that you might like to have the enclosed photograph as a memento of the occasion.

*Yours sincerely*

*A-J. Cole.*

Warrant Officer J.A. Martin



Letter to Warrant Officer J. A. Porter,  
State Warrant Officer,

Rt Hon Stanley.

from A.S.C.

The Prime Minister has asked me to write to you and  
say that ~~she~~ she is most grateful for ~~all the help~~  
~~you give~~ your contribution to the success of her recent visit  
to the Falkland Islands.

As ~~the~~ Thatcher thought that you will  
like to have the endorsed photograph as a memento of the  
occasion.



*PM Tour, Cab 1*  
*Adm for Logan*

MISS DOVER

As requested listed below are details of the flight sectors which relate to the aircrafts actually occupied by the Prime Minister's party.

	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>
1.	UK ----- Ascension Island 7.1.83, 2100 GMT      8.1.83, 0600 GMT	RAF VC 10
2.	Ascension Island --- Falkland Islands 8.1.83, 0630 GMT      8.1.83, 1700 local	RAF Hercules
3.	Falkland Islands --- Ascension Island 12.1.83, 0900 local      12.1.83, 2300 GMT	RAF Hercules
4.	Ascension Island --- UK 12.1.83, 2400 GMT      13.1.83, 0900 GMT	RAF VC 10

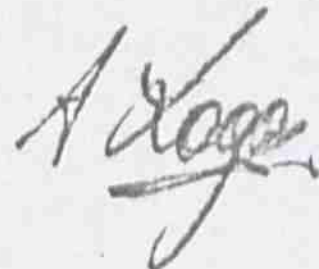
The party in each case comprised the following:-

Prime Minister	Mr. Ingham
Mr. Thatcher	Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse
Mr. Butler	Mr. Logan
Mr. Coles	

The sheet attached to your note details the total costs of the flights necessary to make the visit possible, *including*



- (1) Cost of refuelling tankers and
- (2) Cost of the Prime Minister's Hercules from the UK to Ascension Island and Ascension Island to the UK, even though the Prime Minister's party did not travel in the aircraft during these sectors.



A. LOGAN  
Duty Clerk

1 February 1983



ALAN LOGIE

Alan

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS -  
JANUARY 1983

I have received the attached MOD Account for payment in respect of the aircraft used on this visit.

However, before passing this to MPO, Finance Section, I need to know the passengers who travelled in the aircraft. I should be grateful if you would let me have names to correspond with the aircraft used as soon as possible so that I can pass the account for payment.

*Kay Dover*

31.1.83.



SPECIAL RAF AIRCRAFT FOR RT HON MARGARET THATCHER (PRIME MINISTER)  
TO VISIT FALKLAND ISLANDS IN JANUARY 1983.

PM's VC10

UK - Ascension Island - UK

17.40 hours flying time @ £2635 per hour : £46,551.61

PM's Hercules

UK - Ascension Island - Falkland Islands - Ascension Island - UK

55.00 hours flying time @ £1680 per hour : £92,400.00

3. Hercules Refuelled PM's Hercules at 2.

Tanker for Ascension Island - Falkland Islands Hercules leg.

9.00 hours flying time @ £1527 per hour : £13,743.00

4. Victor (Refuelled Hercules at 3.

Tanker for Ascension Island - Falkland Islands Hercules leg.

13.30 hours flying time @ £4235 per hour : £57,172.50

TOTAL = £209,867.12



# Pilot Map

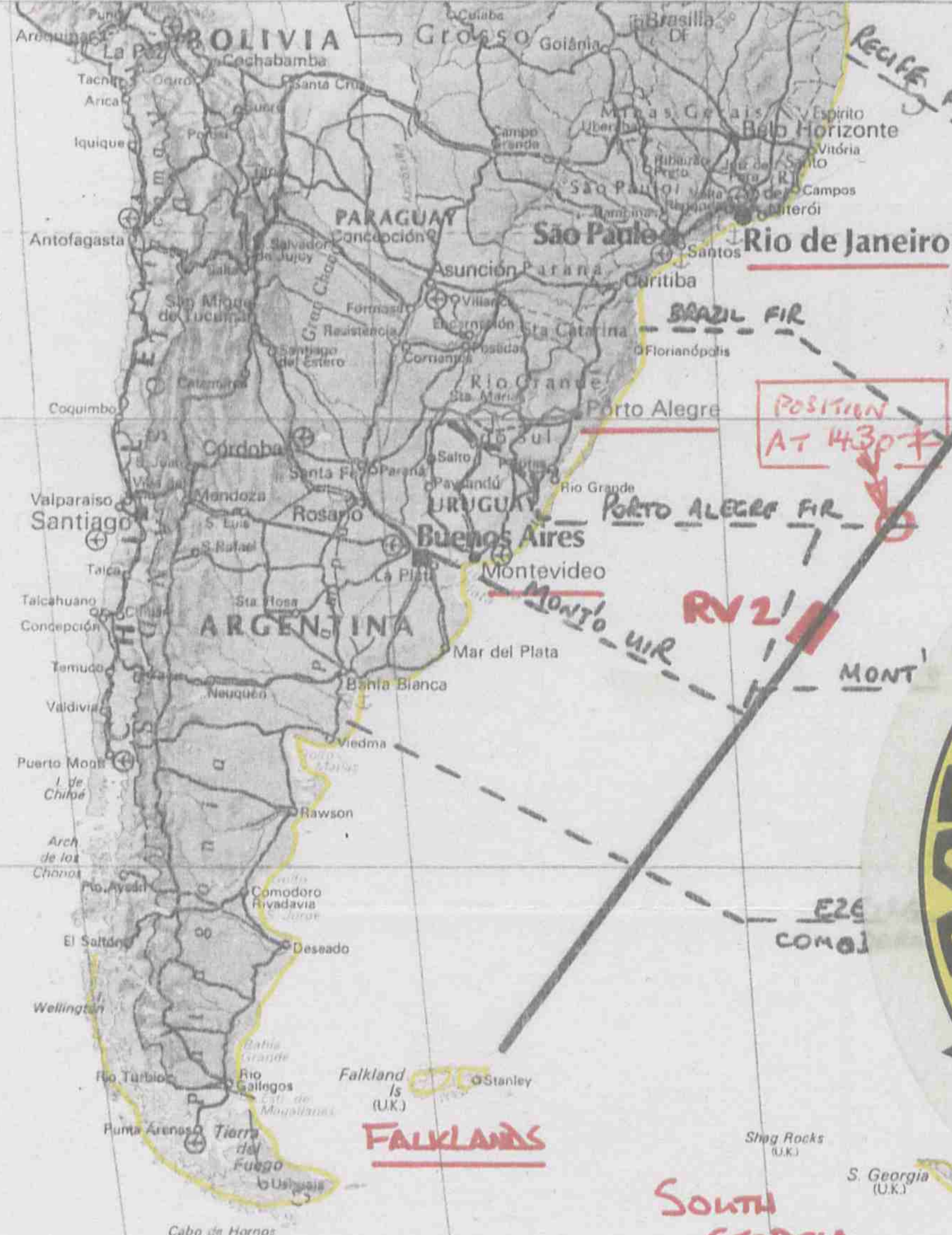
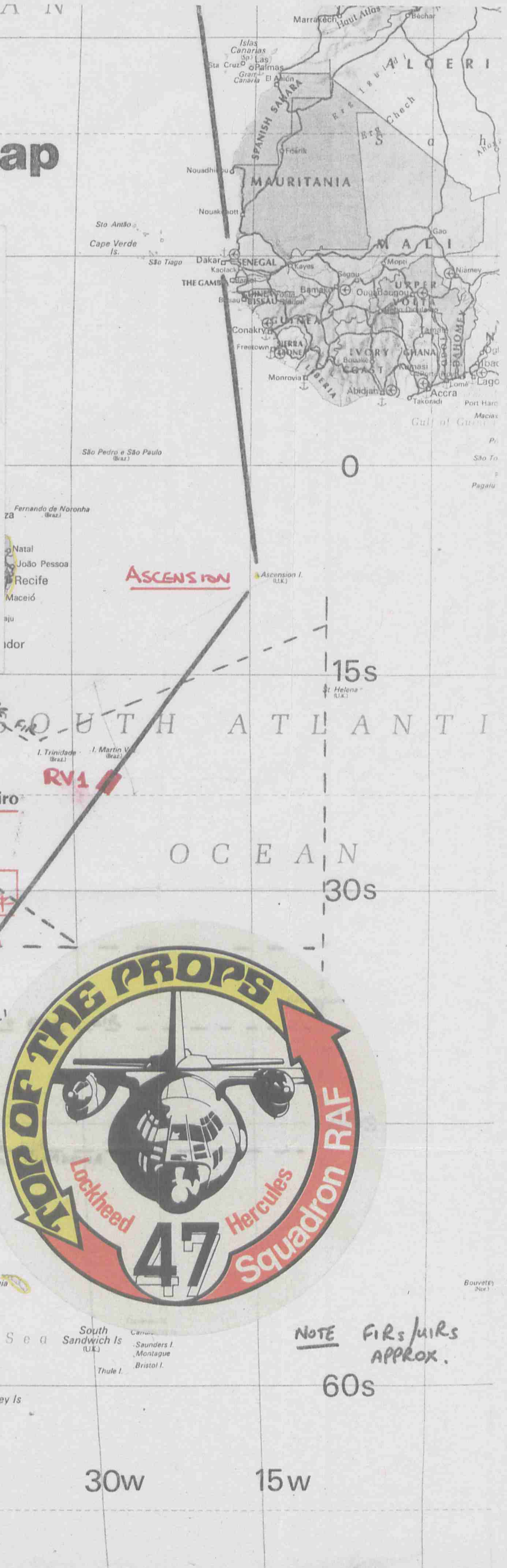
## CREW LIST

AIRCRAFT COMMANDER	WING COMMANDER	BRIAN WARSAP
AIRCRAFT CAPTAIN	FLIGHT LIEUTENANT	GRAHAM FORBES
CO PILOT	FLIGHT LIEUTENANT	JIM EMPTAGE
FIRST NAVIGATOR	FLIGHT LIEUTENANT	MIKE LIMB
SECOND NAVIGATOR	FLIGHT LIEUTENANT	STUART NUSSEY
ENGINEER	MASTER AIR ENGINEER	NICK JONES
LOADMASTER	SERGEANT	BRIAN ARMOUR
STEWART	CORPORAL	TONY PRIDDEN

## ROUTE

DIRECT TO PORT STANLEY (3383 NAUTICAL MILES)  
 FLIGHT TIME **13 HRS 30 MINS**  
 THERE WILL BE TWO REFUELLING RENDEZVOUS AT  
 APPROXIMATELY **4 1/2 HOURS** AND **9 1/2 HOURS** FROM ASCENSION

*John F. L.*  
*For L.*







# OPERATING CREW

Captain	Flight Lieutenant	R M	Robinson
Co-Pilot	Flight Lieutenant	P I A	Neil
Navigator	Squadron Leader	W D B	Andrews
Air Engineer	Master Engineer	C J	Regan
Cabin Supervisor	Master Airloadmaster	J L	White
Airloadmaster	Master Airloadmaster	M J	Dally
Air Steward	Corporal	C	Pearce
Air Steward	Corporal	I D	WILSON (ASCENSION-BRIZE NORTON)

# SUPPORT CREW

Ground Engineer	Chief Technician	C	Bates
GROUND ENGINEER	CHIEF TECHNICIAN	A	HUMPHRIES
Security	Warrant Officer	J P G	Osborne
Security	Sergeant	S	Cattell

13.1.83.