

CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

Memorandum

From: PSO/CDS

To: PS/S of S

Date: 21 Apr 82

SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP - PAPER NO 3

CDS spoke with you: Herewith the leaflets which he left with the PM's Private Secretary.

Handwritten initials/signature

see h 20/1

SOFS

Att.

The leaflets have been produced and are on their way to the Park Cove.

3.

SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP - PAPER NO 3TACTICAL LEAFLETSBACKGROUND

1. Following discussions with VCNS, SPG has been tasked to prepare Psy Ops leaflets for use by the Task Force prior to an assault on the Falkland Islands.
2. If these leaflets are to be available for use at the earliest possible moment, they must be got to Ascension Island before the carrier group gets beyond range of Nimrod aircraft. This could be by Thursday 22 April 1982.

PROPOSAL

3. The SPG proposes that the attached series of 3 leaflets be approved and dispatched to the Task Force.

DISCUSSION

4. It is assessed that the most effective target audiences for these leaflets would be:
 - a. The conscript soldiers of the garrison.
 - b. The Falkland Islanders.
5. The Conscript Soldiers. Although intelligence about the morale of the garrison is fragmentary and mainly based on the debriefs of those evacuated on 13 April 1982 it is clear that the majority of the conscript element of the garrison are poorly administered, badly briefed and homesick. The little they know about the British Task Force is likely to have increased their apprehensions and sense of isolation. Leaflets 1 and 2 which are attached are intended for this target audience.
6. The Falkland Islanders. Leaflet No 3, attached, is a letter drafted and signed by the Governor Mr Rex Hunt, to the islanders. Its intention is to reassure them. It deliberately is unspecific in nature so that it will remain relevant in a wide range of circumstances. We assess that delivery of this leaflet could also have a morale weakening effect on members of the garrison who see it.

7. Arrangements for Production and Use.

- a. If the Task Force Commander (TFC) is to have the option of using these leaflets, authority must be given now to produce them and deliver them to the Task Force.
- b. The leaflets are politically sensitive and will need to be treated as classified material up to the time that a Ministerial decision is made to authorise the TFC to use them.
- c. If a changing situation demands different leaflets, and we have an opportunity to deliver them, new versions can be produced.
- d. These leaflets are to be produced in UK because the graphical, interpreting and printing resources available will give a professional product that will have the greatest possible impact. Facilities available afloat are inadequate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. It is recommended that:

- a. The concept of providing the Task Force Commander with tactical leaflets to be used as directed be approved.
- b. Leaflets 1-3 be approved now in order that they may be available to the Task Force Commander for earliest possible use.

Enclosures:

Leaflets 1-3.



SAFE CONDUCT PASS

INSTRUCTIONS TO BRITISH FORCES

The soldier who bears this pass has signalled his desire to cease fighting. He is to be treated strictly in accordance with the Geneva Convention and is to be evacuated from the area of operations as soon as possible. He is to be given food and medical treatment if he requires it and is then to be held in a place of shelter to await repatriation.

J F WOODWARD
Rear Admiral
Commander,
British Forces

INSTRUCCIONES A LAS FUERZAS BRITANICAS

El soldado que porta este pase ha señalado su deseo de no seguir peleando. Se le tratará estrictamente de acuerdo a lo estipulado por la Convención de Ginebra y deberá ser evacuado del área de operaciones lo más pronto posible. Se le suministrará alimentos y tratamiento médico de ser necesario y después será internado en un lugar de albergue donde esperará su repatriación.

J F WOODWARD
Rear Admiral,
Comandante en Jefe
de las Fuerzas Británicas

COMO UTILIZAR ESTE PASE

Si Ud. desea acogerse a las ventajas ofrecidas en este pase, Ud. deberá hacer lo siguiente :

- Desahacerse de su arma.
- Mantener este pase en posición bien visible.
- Avanzar hacia el integrante de las fuerzas británicas más próximo

PASE DE SALVO CONDUCTO



Dirigida a :
General de Brigada Don Mario Benjamin Menendez,
Comandante en Jefe de las Fuerzas Argentinas.

Indudablemente Vd. y el que suscribe comprendemos perfectamente la muy seria situación militar ante la cual se encuentran hoy día Vd. y las fuerzas militares bajo su comando. No habrá escapado a su criterio que las fuerzas británicas bajo mi comando han logrado establecer una presencia dominante en el área, y de que no existe posibilidad alguna de que las suyas reciban ayuda o socorro.

Ahora las cosas han llegado al punto que hacen necesario que Vd. ponga en tela de juicio la justificación de continuar la resistencia ante fuerzas tan abrumadoras. Es Vd. que tiene que decidir respecto al bienestar suyo personal, la de sus fuerzas y de la población civil.

Hasta el momento su comportamiento indica claramente que la preservación de vidas humanas es para Vd. motivo de primerísima importancia, y tengo la certeza de que esta motivación seguirá siendo para Vd. de primordial consideración.

Entiendo perfectamente que antes de hacerme llegar su decisión, o comunicarla a los tropas bajo su comando, Vd. querrá valorar su posición minuciosamente. No obstante, y vistas las dificultades en lo que tiene que ver con las comunicaciones internas dentro de las islas, hago llegar a Vd. una copia de las órdenes impartidas a mis fuerzas, las que van reproducidas al dorso de la presente.

Rear Admiral John Forster Woodward, Royal Navy.
Comandante en Jefe de las Fuerzas Británicas.

J. Woodward

SAFE CONDUCT PASS

Instructions to British Forces

The soldier who bears this pass has signalled his desire to cease fighting. He is to be treated strictly in accordance with the Geneva Convention and is to be evacuated from the area of operations as soon as possible. He is to be given food and medical treatment if he requires it and is then to be held in a place of shelter to await repatriation.

J F WOODWARD
Rear Admiral
Commander, British Forces

(Translation of above)

How to Use this Pass (In Spanish)

If you wish to take advantage of the terms offered in this pass you should take the following action:

- a. Lay down your weapon.
- b. Hold this pass in a prominent position.
- c. Move forward to the nearest member of the British Forces.

SAFE CONDUCT PASS (In Spanish)

RN CREST

From: Rear Admiral John Forster Woodward, Royal Navy
Commander British Forces

To: Brigadier Mario Benjamin Menendez
Commander, Argentine Forces

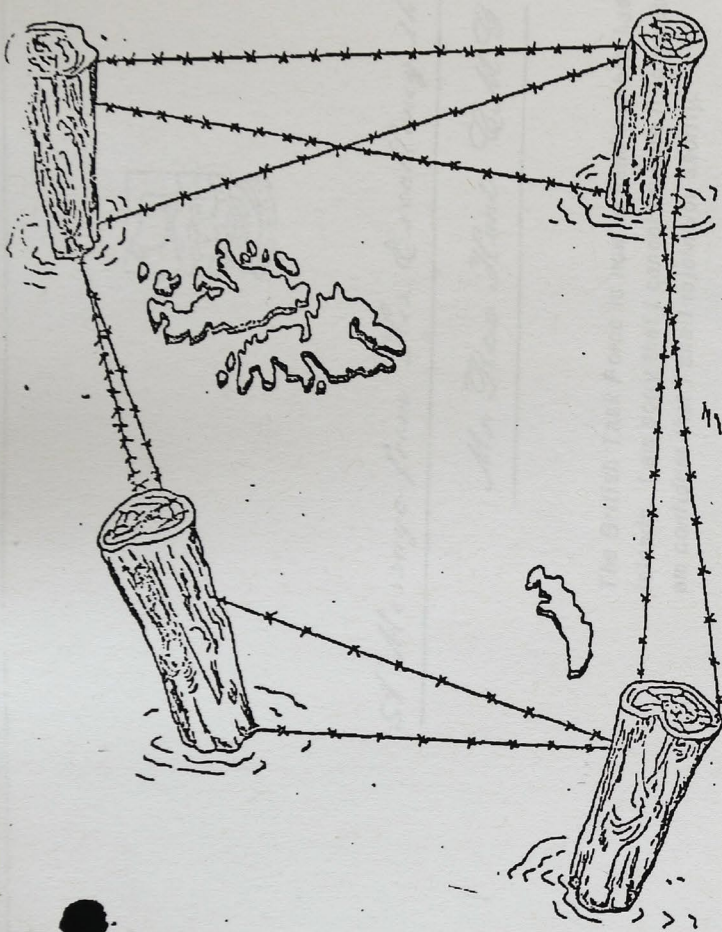
We are both aware of the serious military situation which now confronts you and your men. The forces under my command have established a dominating presence in this area and there can be no prospect of your garrison being relieved.

Matters have now reached the point where you must consider whether there is any further point in maintaining resistance in the face of such overwhelming odds. Upon your decision rests the well-being of yourself, your troops and the civilian populace. Until now you have behaved in a way which indicates that you have a genuine concern for the preservation of life. I am sure that this consideration will remain pre-eminent in your mind.

Clearly you will wish to consider your position in detail before communicating your decision to me and to your men. However, recognising the difficulties in internal communications within the Islands, I am providing you with a copy of my instructions to my troops. It is reproduced on the reverse of this letter.

!! ISLAS DE CONDENADOS !!

(Islands of the Condemned)



SOLDIERS OF THE ARGENTINE FORCES

You are completely alone. There is no hope whatever of help or relief from your Country. You are condemned to the sad task of defending a remote island. Very soon now, you will feel all the rigours of a cruel and heartless winter and the Argentine Navy is not in any condition to supply the food and reinforcements which you so badly need. Your families live with a tremendous terror that they will never see you again. All this is the perfect truth, as you well know.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR YOUR BEING IN THIS TERRIBLE SITUATION?

Those responsible are the selfish people who have nominated themselves as the leaders of Argentina without taking into consideration the will of the Argentine people and who launched you on an absurd adventure knowing that there was no hope of success whatever. Now, those same leaders are trying to hide their clumsy incompetence behind the recognised courage of the Argentine soldier.

SOLDIERS! YOU HAVE DONE EVERYTHING YOUR COUNTRY COULD DEMAND OF YOU. ONLY THE GENERALS ARE DEMANDING MORE!

It is unjust for you to pay with your lives for the tortuous ambitions of those responsible for this adventure which is regarded so badly by the rest of the world.

Note: This is a literal translation of the Spanish text. We have consulted the translator, a native of the area, and he advises that this form of emotive language is best suited to the aim.



A Message from His Excellency the Governor

Mr. Rex Hunt C.M.G.

(1)

The British Task Force is now at hand and blockading the Islands. I am sorry that I cannot be with it in person but am confident that I shall rejoin you shortly.

Your terrible experience under the occupying force will soon be ended. I know that you will continue to be patient and resolute. Do nothing to antagonise the Argentines and stay under cover until the Task Force has liberated you.

My thoughts and feelings are with you all in this final hour of trial before the aggressors are defeated and your freedom is restored.

Best wishes and God bless you.

R. M. HUNT

Governor and Commander-in-Chief

The Falkland Islands and their Dependencies.

(1). At the request of the Foreign Office, the word 'blockado' has been deleted in favour of the phrase 'denying Argentine access to'