



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

PRIME MINISTER

Press Digest for Monday, May 31, 1982

FALKLANDS

- Treatment: D/Star: H is for Hero; the incredible story of Col. H and the 600 Paras who captured 1400 Argentinians  
Sun: My hero - wife says if he had to die he would have liked to have died the way he did; enemy jets attack fleet  
Mirror: Widow's tribute: he died as he lived....a soldier  
Express: The courage of the colonel's widow: H My Hero - as long as we win in the end it will have been worthwhile  
Mail: Surrender: The tragedy is the architect of victory was not alive to see it  
Telegraph: 1400 troops surrender; 12 paras killed in epic battle; more settlements surrender to Marines  
Guardian: Marines close on Stanley as outposts fall; warships deliver port's heaviest bombardment; Pope condemns all warfare as a way to solve conflict  
Times: Argentine raid on Invincible denied by Ministry; colleagues vilify Pym as split with Thatcher widens; Pope says war belongs to tragic past

Comment: D/Star: There will be few stories to match the heroism of Col H when full story of Falklands is told; those politicians who want us to cease fighting now speak only for themselves; politicians who want less bloodshed should urge the junta to surrender now.

Sun: says Col H should be given the VC; referring to reports that Israel may be supplying arms to Argentina, it says Israel, of all countries, should know whose side to take in such a war

Mirror: Under the heading, The Price of victory, it says that Government's defence spokesmen should show more sympathy; complains of insensitivity in referring to "light" casualties and giving out general bad news instead of being specific; Mirror also canvasses VC for Col H. Keith Waterhouse has another go at Ian McDonald - why doesn't MoD get someone who is trained as an announcer.

Express: Under heading - For Valour: H of 2 Para, says we can now celebrate a brilliant exercise of arms and military craft and commend him for VC; referring to those who want a pause even now for negotiation, it says no British Government can sensibly expect to secure a deal with the present junta; our forces have the tools - let them finish the job

Mail: Honours Col H and his men and says we do not want to storm Port Stanley and if Galtieri will only order his men to withdraw we will facilitate it. Meanwhile, we have the will to fight for freedom

(PTO)

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says Parliament has served us well; not generally realised how close the Government came to sell out; a key factor in preventing this was the obligation on Mr Pym to report to Parl.

Telegraph: Now clear Port Stanley can't be held unless blockade of islands is broken - of which there seems to be little danger; logic dictates the garrison surrenders. But junta probably sees fierce final battle as justification of their position. If Argentine attacks continue after victory, it will have widened the war and Britain will be entitled to attack the mainland. But Argentina has something to gain by surrender - give some slight hope that future negotiations would be possible

Times: British Government showed commendable good sense in refraining from any contact with the Pope so that visit could go ahead without risk of misinterpretation; it is to be hoped Argentine Government will show similar good sense. Pope remains uncontaminated in Argentine eyes by association with you; he should be allowed to remain similarly uncontaminated by association with Galtieri

Military: Colleague of Col. H says Goose Green action was probably one of the most brilliant and courageous acts conducted by a battalion since World War 2; Col H died storming machine gun positions; Douglas Settlement and Teal inlet captured by Marines; warships unleash heaviest bombardment yet on Port Stanley; Junta claims Invincible hit but MoD denies this

Harrier pilot who bailed out over enemy lines makes his way back to British forces

Argentine troops in Port Stanley to be given a chance to surrender; Junta facing crucial choice - whether to plead for unconditional ceasefire or fight to a finish

Mail says there are rumblings of mutiny, quoting one Rear Admiral in Argentine by name as saying it is difficult to understand this conflict - this madness; I really don't accept these islands justify the cost

Mail says French technicians, in defiance of Government, gave detailed instructions by 'phone to Argentines on how to fire Exocets three days before Sheffield crippled

9 Paras reported wounded when British patrols at San Carlos mistakenly fired on each other

In Falklands: Goose Green islanders herded into community hall a month ago; elderly in poor health; homes robbed, smashed and fouled - Argentine soldiers made to clean up

In Argentine: Express says euphoria which greeted Falklands invasion has now evaporated; grim mood now;

Junta little by little conceding all is not well on Falklands - admits losses but not Goose Green surrender

Arms trade: Telegraph says there is some evidence Israelis have stepped in to help Argentine; you are highly sceptical of both Israel and South African denials; Peru may be conduit for arms to Argentine

Diplomatic: Hattersley calls for one last chance for negotiation before final push on Port Stanley; Anthony Buck MP says we should show magnanimity in victory, even to extent of allowing Argentine presence on Islands



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Page 3

### Diplomatic Cont....

Express (and others) say row has broken out between Haig and Mrs Kirkpatrick; she says Haig and his like are Brits in American clothes insensitive to Latin cultures; he says she is incapable of thinking clearly on this issue because of close links with Latins - he is said to be trying to force her to resign

Guardian, quoting Argentine journalist, says Falklands crisis has persuaded junta that it would be well advised to reach agreement on Beagle Channel dispute and concede sovereignty of islands to Chile

John Palmer, Guardian, says support for Britain in EC is wearing thin, and nowhere thinner than in Bonn

Political: Times says relations between you and Mr Pym have reached such a low ebb that senior Ministerial colleagues have taken to vilifying Pym in the most disparaging terms

### OTHER NEWS

Unions/Pay: TUC campaigning among MPs and health authority chairmen to get NHS dispute referred to ACAS; Government ready to put army in Power workers accept 8% and firemen consider new inter-union dispute proposals - and call off industrial action

Express says railway shutdown may be only a few days away; Telegraph leader says British Rail cannot possibly go on financially without economies and productivity measures on a massive scale; British people will not react kindly if after a second bout of disruption BR concedes the main point again

Sun says Scargill has instituted a monitoring of all incoming calls at NUM HQ; moderates describe place now as Colditz

Mirror says Labour Party and unions facing biggest cash crisis since 1930s

Civil Service unions reach new deal with Government on time off with pay for trade union activity - a feeble deal, it says

Sun says Nalgo blacking of recruitment for Dr Barnardo's over redundancy dispute is a mean trick

POPE - Visit is a major picture story; says scale and horror of modern warfare totally unacceptable

Some members of Pope's entourage fear junta may try to exploit visit to Argentina politically

Diplomacy: Philip Whitehead MP to ask FCO if it will release 30-year-old papers declassified in Washington on UK/USA/French intelligence co-operation during cold war

Reagan expected to use Westminster platform to launch aid to establish democracy in Third World

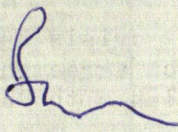
Guardian says since economic summit started unemployment has trebled with no sign of early improvement.

10 DOWNING STREET

Times says Reagan could not have had a worse parting present from Congress than rejection of Budget; but if he was to make a gesture by scrapping final year of tax cuts he could persuade financial markets that Administration puts fiscal action above more fanciful of supply side notions

Industry: Continuing speculation that petrol prices will rise 10p  
More people to spend holidays in England this year  
Mail says Nissan may go to Taiwan instead of coming here

Education: Teachers attack DES for giving £2216 compensation to girl for caning;  
"puts us in intolerable position!"



B Ingham  
31.5.82