

Ceasefire agreed in the Falklands

Argentines will have to leave islands unarmed

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

As darkness fell in the Falkland Islands last night, British troops were establishing themselves in the tiny capital which has been their ultimate objective for the last 10 weeks of intense, often violent endeavour.

Brigadier John Waters, who is negotiating the final surrender of the Argentine garrison at Port Stanley, is understood to be insisting that all troops lay down their weapons at first light today and that they should leave the islands unarmed.

It is also believed that Britain wants them to leave quickly, from West as well as East Falkland, and that the Ministry of Defence will fly them out if possible, to expedite their going.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, was jubilant when he visited his ministry late last night after leaving the Commons.

Acknowledging that the war seemed to be over, he thought the Union Jack would be flying once more over Port Stanley within a matter of hours. "We are absolutely delighted with the news," he said.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin, the Chief of Defence Staff, who had been at the Fleet's operational headquarters at Northwood, Middlesex, earlier in the day, monitoring calls from the task force, said that the advancing British troops had started to come across Argentine soldiers who were ready to surrender.

"Others were seen going back into Port Stanley. Then we heard that they were prepared to discuss surrender terms."

The news was flashed to Northwood soon after 6pm and the surrender talks began two hours later.

Brigadier Waters and General Mario Benjamin Menéndez, the junta's commander on the islands, negotiated at Moody Brook barracks, the old Royal Marine headquarters on the outskirts of the town, before the general flew back to Buenos Aires.

The path to what now looks like victory in the Falklands campaign was opened up yesterday when both brigades on East Falklands, embracing Royal Marines, paratroops, Guardsmen and Gurkhas began to advance on three fronts from the high ground they had won only 48 hours before.

The end looked near early last evening in London when Whitehall sources, for once dropping their customary reserve, confirmed that the Argentine garrison was in full retreat.

As further reports filtered through, Whitehall referred to a near-rout as teenage Argentine conscripts fled from the flimsy barrier of trenches and foxholes which they had built around the town.

FALKLANDS ROUNDUP

100 jets downed	4
Welsh dead	4
Young wives mourn	4
Galtieri survival	10
Leading article	11
Reactions	24

Hundreds of prisoners were said to have already been taken and a great deal of equipment captured.

First news of the spectacular British advance, the second in 48 hours, was released by the Ministry of Defence shortly before 6 pm, in the form of a statement by the Defence Secretary himself, Mr John Nott.

British forces who had captured high ground surrounding Port Stanley on Mount Longden and Two Sisters on Friday night, had once more pressed forward, he said. But yesterday morning they had secured the key positions of Tumbledown Mountain and Mount William to the south west and Wireless Ridge to the north west of the capital.

British deaths top 200

The total number of members of the British task force killed, or missing presumed dead, during the Falklands conflict issued by the Ministry of Defence is 201.

A Press Association report last night said that 20 more men died in the fighting which followed the first phase of the assault on Port Stanley at the weekend, but the Ministry of Defence could not confirm that.

No precise figures of the number of Argentines killed during the entire operation were available from the ministry last night, but the Argentine death rate has been far higher than the British.

The figure given in Buenos Aires for those who died after the attack on the cruiser General Belgrano was 382, and 250 Argentine troops were killed in the British assault on Goose Green.



Triumphant return: Mrs Thatcher and her husband arriving back at Downing Street

Gloom in Buenos Aires

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires

Argentina was on the point of surrender last night after announcing that a ceasefire was in effect on the Falkland Islands.

General Mario Benjamin Menéndez, the Argentine military commander, has arrived here to report directly to the military junta.

The Chiefs of Staff issued a string of communiques throughout the day, painting an increasingly gloomy picture of the Argentine position and finally, at 8.50 pm British time, declared that there was a *de facto* ceasefire on both sides.

It was reported that at about 8 pm (BST) General Menéndez met Brigadier John Waters, the deputy Commander of the British forces on the islands, to discuss the details. According to sources in Buenos Aires, the British side, under Major General Jeremy Moore, the commander of the British forces, requested the meeting and General Menéndez sought authority from the junta before going ahead.

Earlier, troops of both sides were said to be engaged in almost hand-to-hand fighting on the edge of Port Stanley. The military spoke of "courageous resistance"

but conceded that its troops were outclassed by superior equipment and by troop numbers.

Senor Hector Iglesias, secretary to the junta, met Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, the Foreign Minister, in Buenos Aires early last night for what was described by government sources as "the discussion of diplomatic procedures that could be taken in the next few hours in respect to the Malvinas Islands".

The feeling among diplomatic observers was that the military might now feel it has preserved the nation's honour by putting up a tough fight and that the sensible course would be to withdraw gracefully.

It is widely believed in diplomatic quarters that if defeat is now accepted the junta could survive by re-assuring the nation that it has fought a valiant battle. The junta will try to persuade people that although the battle has been lost, the war goes on.

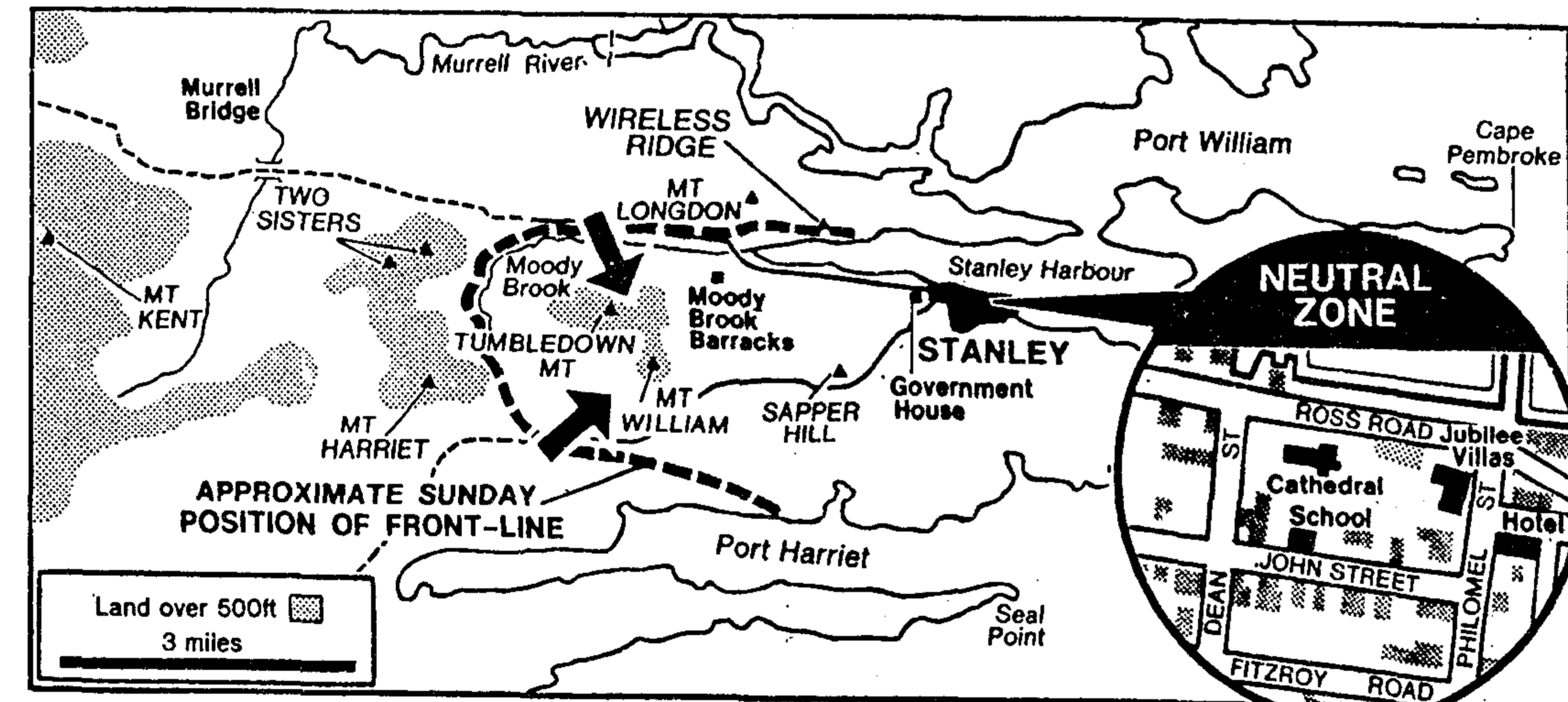
As the junta met in emergency session at the presidential palace, Captain Enrique de León, the principal military spokesman, read

a brief statement to reporters saying: "Leaving aside the final result, the battle for Puerto Argentino (Port Stanley) is just another combat and the Argentine Republic will never give up sovereignty rights over the Malvinas, South Georgia and Sandwich Island, since that is a national issue."

News of the apparent loss of Port Stanley cast a depression over the Argentine capital last night. (AP and UPI report). Some citizens felt their forces has put up a good fight, while others expressed bitterness over the Government's handling of the conflict.

About 200 people gathered in front of the *La Nación* office, where the latest war news is posted. "It's not fair — they outnumbered us 15 to one," shouted one man, shaking his fist. "Long live the fatherland," yelled another.

Some people criticized the Government "Why did they send our young boys to fight against professionals?" asked a man, while another added: "All we have are a lot of dead kids."



Where it ended: British positions and the neutral zone for civilians

Washington welcomes end to the fighting

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Last night's announcement of a ceasefire in the Falklands, with the likelihood that it will lead to an early Argentine surrender and withdrawal, was welcomed in Washington.

Mr George Bush, the Vice President, said that if the reports that the Argentines were surrendering were confirmed he would be the first person to say "Hooray".

An assistant to a senior Administration official said that the news of the impending surrender had been greeted with relief and satisfaction at the White House.

United States officials recognized however, that the question of the islands' future still has to be resolved.

A ceasefire and an Argentine withdrawal would fulfil only two or the three points laid down in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 502. The third point, which Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, emphasized during a television interview on Sunday, calls for a diplomatic and political solution to the problem. That, Mr Haig said, was "an open menu".

Officials believe the intensity of the fighting and the many lives and huge amounts of equipment lost by both sides is likely to make a political solution difficult to achieve.

future still has to be resolved.

A ceasefire and an Argentine withdrawal would fulfil only two or the three points laid down in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 502. The third point, which Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, emphasized during a television interview on Sunday, calls for a diplomatic and political solution to the problem. That, Mr Haig said, was "an open menu".

Officials believe the intensity of the fighting and the many lives and huge amounts of equipment lost by both sides is likely to make a political solution difficult to achieve.

United States officials recognized however, that the question of the islands' future still has to be resolved.

A ceasefire and an Argentine withdrawal would fulfil only two or the three points laid down in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 502. The third point, which Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, emphasized during a television interview on Sunday, calls for a diplomatic and political solution to the problem. That, Mr Haig said, was "an open menu".

Officials believe the intensity of the fighting and the many lives and huge amounts of equipment lost by both sides is likely to make a political solution difficult to achieve.

United States officials recognized however, that the question of the islands' future still has to be resolved.

A ceasefire and an Argentine withdrawal would fulfil only two or the three points laid down in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 502. The third point, which Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, emphasized during a television interview on Sunday, calls for a diplomatic and political solution to the problem. That, Mr Haig said, was "an open menu".

Officials believe the intensity of the fighting and the many lives and huge amounts of equipment lost by both sides is likely to make a political solution difficult to achieve.

Chronicle of the conflict

By Nicholas Timmins

The following are the principal events leading up to last night's ceasefire in the Falklands conflict:

February 27: What proves to be final negotiating session on islands' future, before Argentine invasion, ends in New York. British believe they have won breathing space to end of the year. Three days later Argentine Government warns it will seek other means of resolving dispute unless there is speedy settlement.

March 19: Between 50 and 60 Argentines land on South Georgia and raise flag. Most, but not all, leave.

March 26 or 27: Intelligence sources in Buenos Aires give Foreign Office detailed account of invasion plans.

April 2: Argentina invades. British Marines surrender after three-hour battle. Britain announces it is assembling task force.

April 3: United Nations Security Council passes resolution 502 calling for end to hostilities, withdrawal of Argentine troops, settlement by diplomatic means. Argentina seizes South Georgia.

April 5: First task force ships sail. Lord Carrington resigns and Mr Francis Pym becomes Foreign Secretary.

April 7: Britain declares 200 miles military exclusion zone (effective April 12).

April 8: Mr Alexander Haig, American Secretary of State, begins diplomatic shuttle.

April 25: Britain recaptures South Georgia.

April 30: United States openly sides with Britain, ordering limited sanctions against Argentina after final failure of peace efforts.

May 1: Harriers and Vulcans bomb Port Stanley airfield, Darwin and Goose Green. Warships shell Argentine positions. Two Mirage and one Argentine Canberra shot down.

May 2: Argentine cruiser General Belgrano sunk. Argentine later admits 382 men lost.

May 4: HMS Sheffield hit by Exocet missile. Later sinks. Twenty men lost.

May 7: Exclusion zone extended to 12 miles off Argentine coast.

May 14: Three Argentine Skyhawks shot down. Raid on Pebble Island.

May 20: United Nations peace efforts break down.

May 21: British troops establish San Carlos beachhead. HMS Ardent lost. Twenty-two men lost. Nine Argentine aircraft shot down.

May 23: HMS Antelope crippled, sunk on 24th as bomb in engine room explodes.

May 24: Seven Argentine aircraft shot down.

May 25: HMS Coventry lost and Atlantic Conveyor hit by Exocet. Twenty-four men lost. Argentine national day.

May 28: Darwin and Goose Green re-captured. 1,400 Argentine prisoners taken.

June 1: Britain repeats its ceasefire terms. Death of 250 Argentines and 17 British at Goose Green confirmed.

June 2: British troops reported within sight of Port Stanley. Junta sends delegation to United Nations.

June 3: British aircraft drop leaflets to Argentines in Port Stanley urging them to surrender.

June 6: Versailles summit of world leaders backs British recovery of the Falklands.

June 7: Appeal from British commander to Argentines to surrender.

June 8: Fifty British killed in Argentine air attacks on ships at Bluff Cove. Eleven Argentine aircraft shot down.

June 10: Mr John Nott, Defence Secretary, says this setback will not delay taking of islands.

June 12: Nine killed on HMS Glamorgan while supporting five-mile advance by task force towards Port Stanley.

June 13: Argentines say two civilians killed in Port Stanley. Argentines admit their defences breached around the Falklands capital.

The team that led from tragedy to triumph

These are the men (below) who, more than any others, have had to share the burden of responsibility during the last 10 weeks of triumph and tragedy in the South Atlantic.

Only a week ago there was tragedy when Argentine aircraft, in what was to prove their last significant raid of the war, bombed two ships at Bluff Cove. Today there is the triumph.

Less than three months ago their names and faces were largely unknown to the British public. Now they seem likely to go down in military history as the leaders who, under the Cabinet's control, steered Britain through the Falklands crisis.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin, as Chief of Defence Staff — a post he is

due to relinquish this year — is Britain's senior Serviceman and coordinated the war effort, with advice from the Chiefs of Staff Committee — while he in turn advised Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary.

Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, as Commander-in-Chief Fleet, controlled the operation in the South Atlantic from the underground bunker known as "the hole" at his Northwood, Middlesex, headquarters.

It was Rear Admiral John "Sandy" Woodward who commanded the task force from his flagship, HMS Hermes, while Major-General Jeremy Moore, Royal Marines, as Commander Land Forces, planned and fought the final phase of the Falklands campaign.



The men in charge: From left, Sir Terence Lewin, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Major-General Jeremy Moore and Rear Admiral John "Sandy" Woodward.

expanding NORTHAMPTON real town-real value

As a growing county town on the M1 and midway between London and Birmingham, Northampton's location can pay off in real terms — 50% of Britain's industry and 57% of its population is within a 100 mile radius.

Industrial sites and unit factories
A wide range of industrial sites are available on four employment areas. A choice of unit factories ranging from 3500 sq ft to 39 000 sq ft immediately available at Brackmills and Moulton Park. All units have mains services, central heating, offices and parking facilities. A number of small business units of 1000 sq ft immediately available at Moulton Park.

Moulton Park Science Campus
76 acres of fully serviced sites located in a pleasant parkland setting adjacent to Nene College (Education and Research Complex) and the Blackwood Hodge Business Management Centre.

Northampton offers you real value in a real town

Contact Donald McLean on 0604 34734
Northampton Development Corporation, 2-3 Market Square, Northampton NN1 2EN