



Secretary of State for Defence

IMMEDIATE

Duty Clerk
10 Downing Street

The attached
Press copy has just
been received. It
has not yet been
released but the
Duty Private Secretary
might wish to see
this fairly early.

Derek Price
APS/ Defence Secretary

30/10/82

From: Laurie Phillips, CPRO

The following piece came through on Satcom at 300145A May from Robert Fox, BBC.

1. Fox informs that he plus Stephen Norris, Daily Mail, were with 2 Para on the assault.
2. Argentine positions well prepared. Dug in with overhead cover. Tended to neutralise our artillery fire. Series of fall back positions also prepared. Argentine supporting arms were accurate and heavy particularly mortars, anti-aircraft guns used in ground role objective. Also Argentines mounted Puccara rockets on to mounts such as slide in children's playground.
3. Death of Colonel Jones. It would appear that the two lead companies came under machine gun fire fairly early on and attack began to lose momentum. Colonel Jones went to the front and took one platoon to try and destroy the machine gun position. During the attempt he was killed by machine gun fire.
4. Surrender. Major Chris Keeble second in command and Major Tony Rice Battery Commander 29 Battery took the surrender. Fox and Norris Daily Mail invited ^{to be} civilian witnesses, 250 Air Force personnel came out first, all stood to attention harangued by an officer for about 15 minutes then sang the national anthem and then flung down their equipment into a pile with obvious relief. About 800 army personnel followed with no such show. POWs taken about 1,250.
5. Conditions in Darwin and Goose Green. Argentine Forces have left both settlements in a mess. Standards of hygiene appear similar to those ^{found on} South Georgia. Evidence of dysentery and other similar diseases. There was evidence of looting and hoarding of food by officers. There were no civilian casualties as a result of battle, but RAP did treat two civilians for unspecified illness. Union Jack now flying one end of settlement. Pegasus flag at other end. Civilian population providing cups of tea etc. 2 Para morale high.

22611 MODPR G
24460 COILDN G

HAVE A GOOD DAY
AND U

MV
22611 MODPR G
825911 ADRAFE G

SENT
AT 0722Z BY D2
OUR REF 300400Z MAY 82

PRIORITY

P 300400Z MAY 82
FM PR 3 CDOBDERM
TO MOD PRESS OFFICE TELEX 22611
BT

UNCLAS
SIC EUA

FROM ROBERT FOX, BBC WITH 2 PARA
AT ONE END OF THE GOOSE GREEN SETTLEMENT A UNION JACK NOW FLIES
HIGH ABOVE A SCHOOL, AND AT THE OTHER END THE FLAG OF THE
SECOND BATTALION, THE PARACHUTE REGT, AFTER A WHOLE DAY'S
BITTER FIGHTING AND A MORNINGS'S DELICATE SURRENDER NEGOTIATIONS
THE CHEER OF LIBERATION CAME IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON. WOMEN HANDED
ROUND CUPS OF TEA IN ROYAL WEDDING MUGS, CHILDREN CARRIED ROUND
TINS OF SWEETS AND BISCUITS TO THE YOUNG PARAS, THEIR FACES STILL
CAMOUFLAGED AND THEIR EYES BLEARY WITH EXHAUSTION. FOR NEARLY
A MONTH, 114 PEOPLE HAD BEEN SHUT UP BY THE ARGENTINIANS IN COMM-
UNITY HALL. THEIR HOUSES HAD BEEN RAIDED WITH FURNITURE SMASHED
AND EXCREMENT ON THE FLOOR. THE STORE HAD BEEN LOOTED, THE
ARGENTINE TROOPS WERE UNDERFED AND IN ONE HOUSE USED BY PILOTS
IT SEEMED THE OFFICERS WERE HOARDING TINNED FOOD. THE ARGENTINZS

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COMMITTED ACTS OF PETTY MEANNESS SMASHING AND STEALING RADIOS AND SHOOTING UP A SHEPHERD FROM A HELICOPTER AS HE TENDED HIS SHEEP. NOW THE 1200 OR SO PRISONERS ARE BEING MADE TO CLEAR UP THE MESS THEY MADE IN THE SETTLEMENT.

THE SURRENDER CAME AFTER A 14 HOUR BATTLE THE PREVIOUS DAY. IT BEGAN BEFORE DAWN, A FULL BATTALION ASSAULT ON AN ENEMY TWICE AS NUMEROUS AS EXPECTED, ALMOST 1,500 IN ALL AND VERY WELL DUG IN THE ATTACK BEGAN UNDER NAVAL GUNFIRE AND SHELLS LIT THE SKY AS THE PARAS MOVED FORWARD. BUT IN THE DAYLIGHT THEY WERE ON THEIR OWN COVERED ONLY BY GUNS AND MORTARS, THE ENEMY WERE FALLING BACK SLOWLY THROUGH PREPARED POSITIONS. AT EACH POST THEIR OWN MORTARS HAD BEEN RANGED PERFECTLY. TIME AND AGAIN WE WERE PINNED DOWN BY MORTARS AND FIRE FROM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS. I WAS WITH THE BATTALION HEADQUARTERS AND IF WE WERE WITHIN TEN FEET OF DEATH FROM SHRAPNEL AND SHELLS ONCE WE WERE THERE 40 TIMES. AROUND MID MORNING WE WERE PINNED DOWN IN A FOLD IN THE LAND BY MORTAR FIRE WHEN THE FIRST PRISONERS AND CASUALTIES CAME IN, THE PRISONERS MADE A PATHETIC SIGHT LOOKING FOR THEIR OWN DEAD AND PREPARING THEM FOR BURIAL. THIS WAS INTERRUPTED BY AN AIR ATTACK FROM PUCCARA AIRCRAFT. AS THEY SWUNG ACROSS THE SKY EVERY FIREARM

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AVAILABLE OPENED UP TO NO EFFECT AND THE TWO PLANES SHOT DOWN A SCOUT HELICOPTER JUST BEYOND R FIDGE.

IN MID AFTERNOON WE WERE AGAIN PINNED DOWN BY MORTAR FIRE AMONG SOME CORSE BUSHES. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE C.O. LT. COL. H JONES - ALWAYS KNOWN AS H- HAD BEEN SHOT BY MACHINZ VGNERS AS HE LED A PLATOON ATTACK AGAINST MACHINE GUN NESTS WHICH HAD HELD UP THE BATTALION FOR OVER HALF AN HOUR. A GENEROUS, EXTROVERT MAN HE DIED IN TH ED MANNER IN WHICH HE HAD LED HIS BATTALLION IN PEACE AND WAR. BEFORE THE OPERATION HE CONFIDED TO ME THAT WHILE HE WAS EAGER TO GET ON WITH THE ATTACK HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ACHIEVING 100 PER CENT SUCCESS WITH SUCH A COMPLEX PLAN OF ATTACK. QUOTE THE VICTORY IS ENTIRELY HIS. IT WAS HIS PLAN THAT WORKED UNQUOTE SAID THE SECOND IN COMMAND MAJ. CHRIS KEEBLE. QUOTE HE WAS THE BEST THE VERY BEST. UNQUOTE SAID STAFF SGT. PHIL COLLINS. IN THE EVENING THEY BROUGHT HIS BODY DOWN FROM THE HILLSIDE, A SOLDIER WALKING IN FRONT, HIS WEAPON POINTED TO THE GROUND, THE SILHOUETTE OF THIS SILENT CEREMONY THE MOST INDELIBLE IMAGE OF THE DAY.

THE ARCHITECT OF THE SURRENDER WAS ACTING C.O. MAJOR CHRIS KEEBLE AT MIDDAY WE WALKED THE GOOSE GREEN AIRFIELD. MYSELF AND VOLLEAGUE

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DAVID NORRIS OF THE DAILY MAIL WERE ASKED TO BE CIVILIAN WITNESSES. WITHIN TWO HOURS THE SENIOR OFFICER AIR VICE COMMODORE WILSON DOSER PEDROZA HAD AGREED SURRENDER, HE PARADED HIS AIRMEN AND GAVE A POLITICAL SPEECH AND AFTER SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM THEY THREW THEIR GUNS AND HELMETS TO THE GROUND, WITH OBVIOUS RELIEF. WHEN THE 800 SOLDIERS PARADED, THERE WERE WHOOPS OF JOY FROM ONE GROUP AS THEY THREW THEIR WEAPONS DOWN. THEY WERE GLAD TO BE GOING HOME THEY SAID. SENIOR BRITISH OFFICERS WATCHING WERE AMAZED AT THE NUMBERS, NEARLY THREE TIMES THE STRENGTH OF THE GROUND FORCES THEY HAD BEEN LED TO EXPECT IN THE AREA. THERE ARE TWO LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE. FIRST IS THE TENACITY WITH WHICH THE ARGENTINIANS HELD WELL PREPARED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. SECOND THERE ARE RIVALRIES BETWEEN THEIR SERVICES AND BETWEEN CONSCRIPTS, OFFICERS AND NCOS BUT THE LIBERATION OF GOOSE GREEN IS DUE ABOVE ALL TO THE COURAGE OF 2 ND BN THE PARACHUTE REGT. THEY CARRIED OUT A TYPE OF ATTACK NOT SEEN SINCE THE LAST WAR AND ITS SUCCESS WAS DUE TO THE DASH AND HEROISM OF THE MEN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED WITH HIM. BBC CUE, THE ARGENTINE GARRISON IN GOOSE GREEN, THE SECOND

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LARGEST SETTLEMENT IN THE FALKLANDS HAS SURRENDERED AND ABOUT 1,200 PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. THE SURRENDER FOLLOWED FRIDAY'S BITTER FIGHTING IN WHICH THE SECOND BATTALION, THE PARACHUTE REGT MOUNTED AN ALL OUT ASSAULT ON WELL PREPARED POSITIONS, BOTH ARGENTINIANS AND BRITISH TOOK CASUALTIES, INCLUDING THE PARAS C.O. LT. COL. H. JONES. DESPITE HEAVY MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE, THE PARAS HAD GAINED MOST OF THE OBJECTIVES BEFORE THE SURRENDER OUR REPORTER ROBERT FOX WAS WITH THE PARAS DURING THE 14 HOUR BATTLE WAS A WITNESS AT THE SURRENDER AND FOR THE CELEBRATIONS AFTERWARDS THE END
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