

# Falkland Islands Postal History: The 1982 War and its Aftermath

## Synopsis

### **Purpose of Exhibit:**

Before the 1982 war, there was very little economic or military interest in the Falklands. Since the war, the islands have been the focus of much activity in these areas in order to make the colony as self-sufficient and defensible as possible. This exhibit documents the associated postal history.

### **Challenge Factor:**

This exhibit is the result of 5 years of personal research and corroborative work with leading Falkland philatelic experts and various Falkland Islanders, British and Argentines.

### **What is Presented:**

This exhibit shows important postal history and developments starting from the lead up to the war, continuing to the present day. The exhibit is broken down into 4 main areas: the Argentine occupation; the recapture by British Forces and subsequent expansion of their presence; the recovery and expansion of the Falklands' economy and infrastructure; and postal developments.

### **Material Highlights:**

Argentine Occupation – Reopening of Stanley Post Office: Newly discovered EKU of the 9409 Islas Malvinas cancellation with flag at top (April 6<sup>th</sup> vs April 10<sup>th</sup>). This cover is pictured in the September 2003 issue of Upland Goose. 1 of 4 known. Another example shown is on an “appropriated” BAT Princess Diana first day cacheted envelope (following page).

Argentine Occupation – Internal Letter: Very rare late usage of Falkland stamps on a morale boosting internal letter disguised as a credit memo. Unique item of its type.

Argentine Occupation – Moody Brook Soldier's Letter: Rare red cachet indicating simple mail for a soldier to be sent without charge and was used by troops located at Moody Brook (former Royal Marine barracks near Stanley). Probably no more than 30 exist.

Argentine Occupation – Incoming Sailor Mail Returned by Air Force: Very rare Argentine Air Force operational cachet for free postage that was subsequently applied to an incoming letter to a sailor on a ship that had been destroyed by the British. Unique item.

Argentine Occupation – First and Last Day Cancels: OHMS cover cancelled April 1<sup>st</sup> (hours before the invasion) that shows the last day of use of the “Official Paid” cancel (in sporadic use since 1899) and the first day of the Argentine flag cancel on April 6<sup>th</sup>. 1 of 2 that I know, though there must be some others.

British Forces Mail – British Forces Mail During the War: Rare usage of the Field Post Office 941 cancel (Heijtz BF.18) on board the QE2 enroute to the Falklands (the QE2 was used as a troop transport). The same cancel was later used at San Carlos, Stanley and Mount Pleasant.