

# Falkland Islands – War and Aftermath

## Synopsis

### Challenge Factor:

The population of the Falklands in 1981 was 1,893 (including Royal Marines), so the amount of available mail is fairly small. It is also worth noting that the Falklands are very muddy, thus much mail (especially Argentine military mail from the period of the war), is soiled.

### Material Highlights:

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 featured in the article: *9409 Islas Malvinas Cancellations* by Frank Mitchell (The Upland Goose; September 2003; p. 10).

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

Evacuee Mail Forwarded to Concentration Camp: Letter to boy at the Stanley boarding school. Boy had been evacuated to his home settlement at Goose Green where he was detained at the recreation hall with the other residents of the settlement. Unique item of its type.

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.

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 disabled by the British. Unique item.

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 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).

### Other References

Alaimo, Salvador; *A Listing of Argentine Forces in the Falkland Islands 1982*; The Upland Goose (Journal of The Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group); December 2002, p. 181.

Alaimo, Salvador; *Post-Conflict Argentine Postal Markings*; The Upland Goose (Journal of The Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group); September 2002, p. 148.

Davis, J.D.; *The Falklands War – Postal History and Stamps of the Argentine Occupation 1982*; The Bittern Press; 1982. Note: written immediately after war, now mostly considered obsolete.