

Falklands or Malvinas?

Synopsis

Challenge Factor

The population of the Falklands is small (less than 2000 in 1981), so the amount of available island mail is fairly small. The 1982 Falklands War was also short, just over ten weeks. Additionally it is 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

Early Argentine Postal Harassment: Unofficial harassment by Argentine postal employee in 1927. One of 2 known by Stefan Heijtz.

Design Material: 3d. value from the Falkland Islands 1933 Centenary of British Administration commemorative series (as described in Ronnie Spafford's book – listed below). Also design material from the £1 high value from the 1963 British Antarctic Territory definitive series.

Reopening of Stanley Post Office: Newly discovered EKU of the 9409 Islas Malvinas cancellation with flag at top (April 6th vs April 10th). 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 boosting internal letter disguised as a credit memo. Unique item.

Evacuee Mail Forwarded to Internment 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.

Moody Brook Conscript'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 1st (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 6th. 1 of 2 that I know, though there must be some others.

BFPO 941 During War: BFPO 941 cancel (Heijtz BF.18) on board the QE2 enroute to the Falklands (the QE2 was used as a troop transport).

Argentine POW Mail: Repurposed British Forces aerogramme sent by an Argentine POW in Stanley on July 7, later forwarded by the ICRC in Buenos Aires by certified mail on July 13.

Main References

Alaimo, Salvador; *Oficina Radiopostal Islas Malvinas 9409* (series of articles); *The Upland Goose* (Journal of The Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group); March to December 2002.

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Heijtz, Stefan; *Specialised Stamp Catalogue of The Falkland Islands and Dependencies Including Postal History and Cancellations 1800-2006*; 2006 (5th Edition).

Spafford, R.N.; *The 1933 Centenary Issue of the Falkland Islands*; 1972; Picton Publishing.

Other References

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.

Daynes, John A.; *The Forces Postal History of the Falkland Islands & The Task Force*; 1983.

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Mitchell, Frank G.; *The Official Cachets of the Falkland Islands – Monograph No. 7 of The Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group*; September 2002.