

**My adventure and return trip back to the Falklands 7/11/2022-12/11/2022**

**WEM (0) 1 Kevin Buck Ryan**



Ken

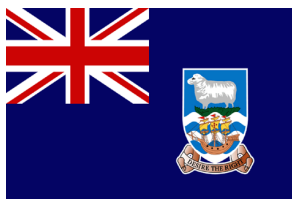


Ardent & Antelope memorial San Carlos Bay



Last in the Falklands March 1984





San Carlos Cemetery



2 Para Memorial

Mike Harrier pilot

Lost Ghurka after the war clearing mines

11/11/2022



Fox Bay Gen 2 Penguins



Buck and John HMS Intrepid

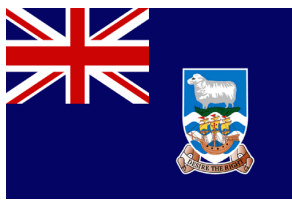


Goose Green Battlefield



11/11/2022





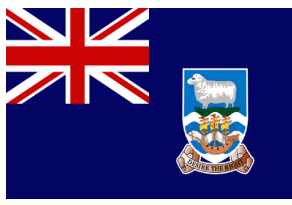
# Argentinan Cemetary



Governors Reception on Tuesday



# Goose Green



## 2 Para Memorial

I started my journey traveling to RAF Brize Norton thanks to my driver Kevin Ryan Junior. My flight took off 1 hour late at 02.00 hours on Monday Morning, due to operational problems.

After 11 hours we touched down in Cape Verde to refuel and add more food.

19 Hours after taking off and 6 meals later I arrived in RAF Mount Pleasant. I then transferred to Port Stanley on the only Tarmac road which took 1 hour and 35 miles.

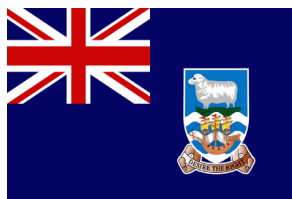
After transferring to my hotel the Waterfront Boutique on the Port Stanley harbour front Sharron who I was communicating for the last 6 months checked me into the Junior Suite room 3.

Tuesday morning 08.30 I was picked up by Ken "Copper" named by his teacher for the mop of red hair he still has at 70.

The Landrover number plate is F69.

My first memorial Camp Peter, San Carlos 3 hours later and an awfull lot of off roading and we overheated as Ken had to refit the rotor fan .

1 1/2 hours later after lunch we moved off to San Carlos Cementary, where Colnel H Jones from 2 Para was buried now repatriated to the UK.



The youngest person in the grave was a 19 year old Royal Marine .

I meet Mathew a local who was 5 in the war, he had arranged to take Gary Nelsons daughter on a rib boat on Saturday.

A roll call of 255 serving military who died is engraved at the back of the memorial, the Ardent is on the far left side under Antelope sunk on May 22<sup>nd</sup> No loss to the crew only the engineer defusing the bomb.

I then went onto Goose Green the largest colony of sheep on the Islands I meet with some locals who all thanked me for our service .

Ken continued with my tour now onto a memorial to Nick, a Harrier pilot shoot down and his parachute did not open.

The planes indentation is still very visable 40 years later.

Very close was another memorial where a Ghurka who died cleaning the battlefield after stepping onto a mine .This was 14 days after the campaign ended on the 25<sup>th</sup> June he was 28 years young.

We then went onto the Argentinian cementary there are 648 names on the plaque at the rear.

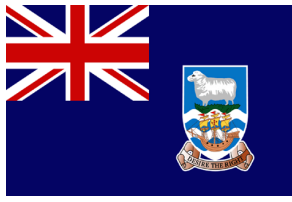
The cementary is looked after by the locals but is in a poor state of repair were the tiles are blown off.

There are 250 head stones, burying 2-3 bodies in one grave.

Nobody knows how many Argentinian soldiers died the estimate is over 7000 we will never know the true figure.

All the graves have crosses and Rosary beads hanging on them.

The Argetinians when visiting are not alllowed to take photographs or flags in, the guides turn their backs so their faces cannot be identified and not displayed by the Junta.



Driving back to Port Stanley I asked Ken what the pile of boots and shoes were on the left.

There are several stories, Kens version is 3 men broke into a building and managed to get powder on their foot wear. Which they deposited on the floor. The culprits were never caught.

My tour finished by 17.00.

Tuesday night I was invited to the Governors reception at the Malvina Hotel.

All free although the chicken curry was accompanied by roast potatoes.

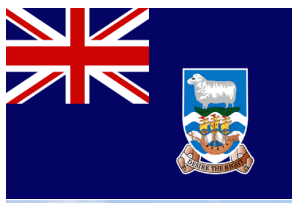
I was in bed by 10.00 as Wednesday morning I had to be outside my hotel at 06.10.

Wednesday morning another 08.30 start I meet with my Guide another Ken now with 3 other marines, Graham an ex priest serving 51 years, Bob & Polly all MBE or OBE .

We visited the same plaques and memorials as my first days tour.

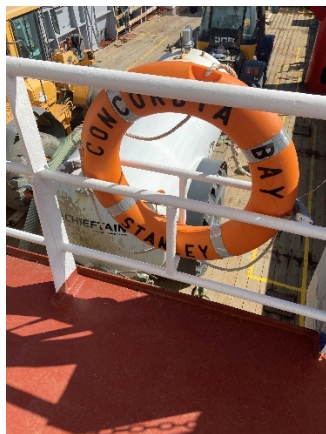
The difference now was that we visited Fox Bay where the hospital was located.

My first colony of 100 x Gen 2 Penguins.



We spent 2 hours telling our stories eating lunch toasting our fallen colleagues, With Whiskey, Port and beer.

Graham reciting prayers and a sermon. Extremely loudly definitely enough to wake the dead.



We finished our day at 18.00.

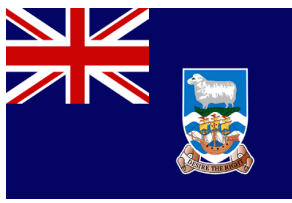
Back at the hotel another reception this was a surprise from the SAS a company dealing with logistics.

Canapes and beer, Shower, more beer, Wine, Rum and Dinner Lamb chops, roast potatoes and vegetables. Followed by lemon meringue.

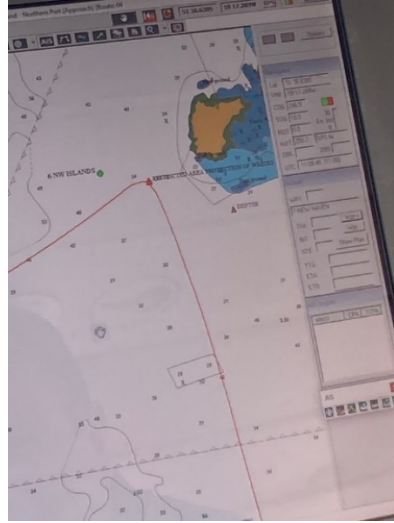
My Driver David nickname Fudge.

Driving fuel to Port Howard on the West Island a population of 10.00.





John Fergusson the Captain of the ferry sailed me to the point over the Ardent in 5 meters.



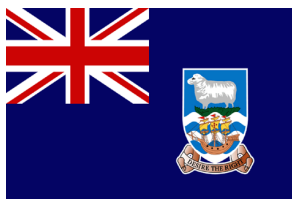
This diverts the ferry by 40 minutes. As there were only 2 passengers on board my driver and a BBC Photographer.

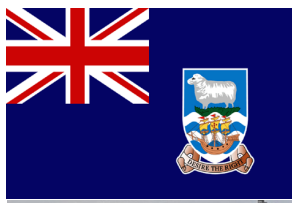
At 11.00 on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> I laid the Wreath followed by my beany hat thanks to Rachel Simmonds. Rum and the bottle to follow.

15 minutes later we were back on the move. After another free meal.

I was taken back to Stanley by Owen carrying 10 tonne of Wool .

I got back to the hotel at 17.00 of to the Globe public house were I got barred in 1983 during a 6 month tour on the Apollo for singing rude sea shanties.





I was welcomed with open arms. Off to the west store for a snack, toothbrush and razor for my 18 hour return trip home.

Some facts and figures established on my visit.

- There are no roundabouts
- There are no Traffic Lights
- There is a hole in the Ozone layer
- There is no pollution
- You need factor 50 suntan cream for protection
- The population is 2500 - 100 in the West islands
- The roads were built of shingle after the war
- The speed limit is 40 MPH
- There are 40 Policemen serving on the islands

Kevin Ryan