


**In commemoration of all those who fell
during the Falklands conflict**

2nd April 1982 to 14th June 1982





The Falklands War was a ten-week undeclared war between Argentina and the United Kingdom in 1982 over two British dependent territories in the South Atlantic: the Falkland Islands and its territorial dependency, South Georgia, and the South Sandwich Islands.

The conflict began on 2 April 1982, when Argentina invaded and occupied the Falkland Islands, followed by the invasion of South Georgia the next day. On 5 April, the British government dispatched a naval task force to engage the Argentine Navy and Air Force before making an amphibious assault on the islands. The conflict lasted 74 days and ended with an Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982, returning the islands to British control. In total, 649 Argentine military personnel, 255 British military personnel, and three Falkland Islanders died during the hostilities

The conflict was a major episode in the protracted dispute over the territories' sovereignty. Argentina asserted (and maintains) that the islands are Argentine territory, and the Argentine government thus characterised its military action as the reclamation of its own territory. The British government regarded the action as an invasion of a territory that had been a Crown colony since 1841. Falkland Islanders, who have inhabited the islands since the early 19th century, are predominantly descendants of British settlers, and strongly favour British sovereignty. Neither state officially declared war, although both governments declared the islands a war zone.

The Falklands Memorial Bench is kindly donated to Llanelli by Mr Paul Summers a Falkland Islander who went on to serve in the Parachute Regiment.

He spent a couple of years tirelessly fundraising to achieve his goal .

This has resulted in a superb Falkland Memorial Bench being installed in the Llanelli Town Hall grounds near the Cenotaph

In the south Atlantic the sea runs red
With the blood of British sons now dead
Never again will they have tears of pain
Now they lay silent in the cold and rain
Homes men left will never be the same
To the Falkland Islands the task force came
To fight for freedom on invaded lands
And break the chains that bind free hands
War injure and kill our friends and kin
When the fighting is over no nation wins

Terry Charles



Eirwyn John Phillips, Guardsman, Welsh Guards.

Eirwyn was born at Carmarthen on 4 June 1962, the son of William Gwynfor Phillips and Phoebe Violet Phillips (nee Lewis). He served with the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

Eirwyn was killed when RFA Sir Galahad was bombed by Argentinian Skyhawk aircraft at Port Pleasant, Fitzroy Creek and was seriously damaged by three bombs. One bomb went through the open upper deck hatch and deflagrated, causing a massive fireball which swept through the tank deck causing heavy casualties amongst the embarked Welsh Guards who were billeted there. The second bomb exploded in the galley area, killing the butcher and the third one burst in the engine room, killing the Third Engineer Officer and trapping others in the thick smoke which resulted. The fires aboard raged for over a week. The wounded were transferred to the LPD HMS INTREPID and then to the Hospital Ship UGANDA which anchored in Grantham Sound

25 June 1982 RFA Sir Galahad was towed out to sea by the tug RMAS TYPHOON and was torpedoed and sunk by HMS/m ONYX off the Falkland Islands as a war grave

Eirwyn was 20 years old, and is commemorated in Llanelli and on the Armed Forces Memorial at Alrewas, Staffordshire.



Nicholas David Mark Thomas, Lance Corporal, 24436475, Welsh Guards.

Nicholas was born on 11 May 1957. He served with the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. Nicholas was aboard the Troopship RFA Sir Galahad when it was attacked by A4-C Skyhawks of the Argentinian Air Force on 8 June 1982, and was hit by three bombs. The resulting explosions and fire killed 48 men, mostly of the Welsh Guards, but also men of other units. Nicholas was 25 years old, and is commemorated on the Armed Forces Memorial at Alrewas, Staffordshire.

Gallipoli. "The extent of the disaster is had been regarded as military Heol-y-Garreglas, Llandeno.

ONLY ARMY WOULD DO FOR MARK

LC 4484

S. W. EVENING POST TUES. 15th June 1982

LANCE CORPORAL Mark Thomas, the Llanelli Welsh Guardsman reported missing presumed dead after the bombing of the Sir Galahad, had always wanted to join the army, said his mother, widow Mrs. Glynys Thomas.

Mark, aged 25, joined the Guards more than four years ago after a spell in the Territorials.

Mrs. Thomas, who lives at Yr Hafod, Llanelli, said the last letter she received from Mark was posted in Freetown, en route to the South Atlantic in the QE2.

Mark, who loved singing and was a member of the Welsh Guards choir, used to attend Calvary Baptist Chapel, Llanelli, and was formerly Sunday School superintendent.

After leaving Colehill School he had a spell as an apprentice in the laboratory at Dupont Steelworks.

Several other jobs followed, but his ambition was always to join the army.

LANCE/Corporal Mark Thomas... loved singing.

Sea Scouts' fears for destroyer

LC 4484

WHEN the news of the damage to HMS Glamorgan came through there was consternation at the Neath and Briton Ferry Sea Scouts headquarters.

For not only did they have close links with the ship after having been officially affiliated with it for many years, but one of their ex-cadets was known to have been on board.

Fortunately the news has come through that the former cadet John Whitton, from Baglan, is safe and well. Lieutenant Colin Andrews, who runs the group, said today: "When the news first came through we were more worried about John than anything else, but now we are beginning to wonder how badly the ship was damaged," he said.

"We have had a long relationship with the ship and have sent cadets aboard many times for training.

"In the past when it has been travelling the world the captain and the sailors on board have kept in touch with us by letters and postcards and we would be very sorry if anything serious had happened to the ship.

"I don't suppose we will see it again for quite a long time because presumably it will go straight into dry dock for repairs when it gets home, but we will certainly be writing to the captain when it does return to this country."

At the moment they are preparing to welcome back John Whitton after his exploits in the South Atlantic and they are hoping the HMS Glamorgan will be back in the area soon so they can renew

Evening Post, Friday, November 8, 1985

Tribute to hero

By DAVID ROBERTS

A SONG written by a local headteacher and dedicated to a Llanelli Welsh Guardsman killed when the landing ship Sir Galahad was attacked by Argentinian planes during the Falklands

War has been included in the latest long playing record by one of the top Welsh male voice choirs Cor Meibion Llanelli.

Called simply *Malvinas*, it was composed by choir conductor 40-year-old Mr. Eifion Thomas, of Old Road, head-teacher at the town's Halfway Primary School.

The song is one of 12 tracks recorded at Swansea's Brangwyn Hall last Sunday by the folk record company.

It is the eighth record to be brought out by the choir, winners at the 1984 National Eisteddfod at Lampeter, and it is expected to be on sale at local shops before Christmas.

Mr. Thomas, accompanist for Cor Meibion Llanelli from 1964 to 1974, and since then the choir's conductor, said the piece was written about a year after the conflict in the South Atlantic. "I wrote the tune first and originally named it *Falklands Melody*. It was only afterwards that I put the English words to it, translating it later into Welsh," he said.

ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Thomas pointed out that the piece was entirely non-political and said that it started off with the idea of sadness for the lives lost on both sides.

"It developed then into a more hopeful note and ended in a major key with the idea that they are now in paradise away from pain and worry," he said.

Mr. Thomas added that he had changed the title of the song to *Malvinas*, which was the Welsh, as well as the Argentinian, name for the islands.

He has dedicated the piece to local Welsh Guardsman Mark Thomas, of Llanerch, one of the victims of the Bluff Cove tragedy, whom he taught at Colehill Boys School, Llanelli.

The 120-strong Cor Meibion Llanelli is this year celebrating its 21st anniversary and will be taking part in two concerts — at Haverfordwest and Barry Port before Christmas.

Mr. Eifion Thomas with the score of his musical creation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to:

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Llanelli Veterans Association:
President – Lt. Col. David Mathias DL
Chairman – Robert Thomas. R.N. / R.N.Z.N.

Authors:
George Parker M.B.E.
Samantha Smith – Research

Falklands Memorial Bench

Unveiling and Service.



1. M.C. welcomes all those in attendance.
2. Wreaths to be laid at Falklands Memorial
3. Falklands Padre – Pierre Cornlouer performs
Commemoration service by bench.
4. Unveiling of Falklands Memorial Bench to
include Exhortation by C.C.C. Chair, Cllr Rob Evans
Unveiling by Town Mayor, Cllr Phillip Warlow &
Rural Council Chair, Cllr Giles Morgan.
5. Last Post to be performed during this period.
6. Epitaph by Cllr Rob Evans
7. Reville
8. M.C. thanks all those who have attended and
Parade will fall out in preparation for Armed Forces Day



ARMED FORCES DAY



**Llanelli Veterans
Association**

Sat. 25th June



**LLANELLI VETERANS ARMED FORCES DAY / FALKLANDS
40TH ANNIVERSARY IN TOWN CENTRE @11 am
& FALKLANDS MEMORIAL BENCH UNVEILING
IN TOWN HALL GROUNDS @ 10 am**

Parade will be led by the Llanelli 'Corps of Drums' with Current Serving, Veterans & Cadet Forces on Parade. Why not make a day of it with the mega 80's themed event, happening from 2pm. So time for lunch!

