

Failure at the Falklands

By Oisín Power

Nuremberg: Excerpt from the Cross-Examination of Martin Bormann by
Sir Hartley Shawcross

Translated from German

“Mr. Bormann, You are perhaps aware that you are the only living man who can expound to us the true purposes of the Nazi Party and the inner workings of its leadership?”

“I am perfectly aware of that.”

“And are you also aware that your testimony could fill in a lot of the gaps that are present in the books of the last 30 years?”

“I don't understand the question”

“Well, Mr. Bormann, when you and your people left Berlin in '45, you didn't leave a lot behind you in the way of documentation, is this correct?”

“I suppose it could be characterised that way.”

“And during your time in Argentina, you weren't exactly predisposed to talking to British reporters, is that correct?”

The transcript notes that Martin Bormann let out a laugh

“I'll take that as an affirmative. Perhaps you could begin by describing your connection to the late President Perón?”

Nuremberg: Excerpt of the Cross-Examination of Albert Speer by Sir
John Wheeler-Bennett

Translated from German

“You were not only a member of the Nazi Party after 1932, but you held high rank in the Party, did you not?”

“Correct”

“And in your service to Germany you held the title of Head of the Hauptamt fur Technik?”

“I was in charge of armaments and production, yes”

“And did you hold the same or similar position in the government of Juan Perón?”

“My job in President Perón’s cabinet was to use my contacts to covertly obtain surplus military weapons to be used in the Falklands invasion. There was a lot of unused equipment in Germany at the end of the war, from Kar 98s to Panthers, and for a passport to Argentina, there were plenty of people prepared to bring some with them.”

“Thank you Mr. Speer, is there anything else you’d like to bring to the attention of the court?”

“I will not plead for forgiveness or clemency, I regret nothing I did in the name of the German or Argentine people, ask yourself, after everything you’ve done, are you better than me? Because I doubt the Iron Lady is planning on keeping these prisoners she’s taking”

Combat Report from San Carlos “Bomb Alley”

-At 0230 on May 21st, 1972, British troops began disembarking at Ajax Bay and Port San Carlos, in an effort to retake the Islands from the occupying Argentine troops.

-At 0245 British soldiers heard the sound of multiple propeller engine aircraft approaching, but due to the propeller engines, it was initially misreported as a civilian flight.

-At 250 between 40 & 70 Ju-87 “Stuka” bombers appeared over the horizon, 2 Battalion Parachute attempted to organise, but lacked the immediate firepower to deal with the threat

-Initial casualties were high as the bombing commenced, with German bomber ace Hans-Ulrich Rudel allegedly coming out of retirement to personally lead the attack.

-With the backbone of his forces broken, British ground commander [REDACTED] issued an immediate evacuation order, back to the more covered highground

-At 0300 6 Harrier Jump Jets were deployed to search for the squadron of Stukas, but this search would prove ultimately in vain, and the decision to go looking for the planes instead of providing air cover would be one of the most controversial moves of the campaign

-Argentine Artillery opened fire on the British position, but was largely rendered ineffective due to the entrenchments thrown up by the retreated forces

-At 0355 The HMS Intrepid and HMS Fearless were moved into position to begin providing naval counter bombardment against the Argentine guns

-The shelling on both sides continued, with the Royal Navy getting the upper hand over the Ejército Argentino, but neither side budging.

-At 1030 reinforcements were brought in and successfully landed, despite continued fire from the Argentine 88mms.

-Fearing another aerial assault, British troops were equipped with stationary Sea Slug Missile launchers, another crucial mistake that would cost the British dearly.

-At 1300 Argentine Infantry, totalling nearly 2000 men arrived, in their distinctive Field Grey, and coal scuttle helmets. And took up positions surrounding the bay

-At 1530 2 British Gunships were deployed, and began shredding the Argentine soft targets, this continued for close to 3 hours, intermixed with an exchange of small arms fire, until eventually an Argentine Soldier managed to plant a Panzerschreck missile into the side of one of the Gunships, causing the other to return to the HMS Fearless

-At 2000 British commanders launched their first offensive, with Naval support, and smashed into the Argentine lines. Fighting was initially fierce, but Argentine resistance quickly crumbled and began a mass retreat of 35 kilometres to the isthmus of Goose Green.

-Seeing the opportunity, the British troops took the provided Sea Slug missiles, and gave chase to the escaping forces. Both sides marched through the night, exchanging small arms fire. Casualties were running high on both sides, but the British 2 Battalion Parachute, and 25th Infantry estimated its numbers to be close to 1500, with the retreating Argentines numbering between 1500-1800.

-At 0830 of May 22nd British Infantry arrived at Goose Green, a narrow passage on East Falkland that connects the North and South of the Island, expecting to find hastily entrenched Argentines.

-Instead they were met with a refreshed force of nearly 2500 soldiers, in pre-prepared defensive lines. Seeing the trap, Commander ██████ attempted to order a retreat, but was tied down by the return of the Stuka Bombers

-Although the Sea Slugs were attempted to be used in order to provide some sort of relief, they proved to be unable to lock on to the slow moving, low flying Ju-87s and were almost entirely ineffective, succeeding only in maiming a herd of cows, some 50kms away

-At 0900 once again disorganised and suddenly on the defensive, the British were taken entirely unawares by a surprise offensive from 19 King Tigers, which had been concealed in a large barn 2 km down the road, and which British forces had neglected to search, in their haste to catch the fleeing Argentine forces.

-Demoralised and wounded, fighting continued for only another 45 minutes, until the complete surrender of British forces at 0945

Excerpt from a televised speech to the nation from the Balcony of the Casa Rosada by “El Presidente” Juan Perón, June 5th 1972

Translated from Spanish

“People of Argentina, my gallant allies, and viewers from around the world, today I have the privilege of being the first, elected, and free leader of Argentina and Las Malvinas! British forces have tendered to me their surrender, and we hold them now, graciously, as our honoured guests, awaiting their return to Britain. Let no man say that The Falklands are not Argentine! *Las Malvinas son Argentinas!*”

The crowd begins to chant the slogan as the President turns solemn

“But Argentines, it is not me alone who is to be thanked for this glorious victory, it is you. The noble sacrifice of brave Argentines, such as pilot Hans-Ulrich Rudel, who at 56, fought like a man half his age, and gave everything to drive the British Colonialists from rightful Argentine soil! Let his sacrifice, and the sacrifices of 800 others forever be remembered, and let June 5th forever be remembered as our national day of pride!”

The crowd again rises up in cheers

“Finally Argentines, I would like to thank our gallant allies, who came here in their hundreds some 27 years before, I have with me the Chair of the German People’s National Socialist Refugee Council, Herr Martin Bormann. His people were too victims of colonial repression by the European Empires, and were forced to flee to the welcome arms of their new motherland. Now these stateless people have a new home, forevermore, in Argentina. This victory would not have been possible without cunning generals like Señor Schörner and Señor Jodl, or Admiral Dönitz, whose U-boats prevented further naval assaults from invading forces. All these men are Argentines as much as you or I and I thank them for their service!”

The crowd erupts to a chant of “Viva Perón, Viva Bormann, Viva Argentina!” with a noticeable display of Roman salutes from some of the crowd’s more elderly members.

Frontpage Article of The Sun

Friday 29th of Feb, 1974

Thatcher wins in landslide!

Margaret Thatcher has unseated incumbent Prime Minister Ted Heath in yesterday’s election, becoming Britain’s 4th Labour Prime Minister, and its first female one. Mrs Thatcher rode in on a wave of jingoistic, anti-fascist sentiment, promising to “Preserve Britain’s place on the world stage” and criticising the Heath government for the disastrous Falklands War of 1972.

She also criticised Britain's traditional allies of America, and France, for their reluctance to assist in the war, hinting at drawing Britain closer to the eastern bloc, saying; "What was The Second Great War for, if we roll over to the Krauts no more than a quarter century later? Britain's sons bled in France to stop Hitler, so why now do you shirk your duty to take the fight to his disciples? ...It seems as though only the Reds know what it means to fight fascism."

Mrs. Thatcher has been in the public eye since she resigned from her role as secretary of education following Heath's conduct of the war, and humiliating peace treaty, making the unexpected move of crossing the aisle to join Wilson's Labour. Becoming a vocal opponent of her former colleagues, she proved to be a powerful and popular firebrand that spoke the mind of an increasingly disgruntled British people, emphasising her humble roots as a Grocer's daughter. And so it was no wonder when her leadership challenge of last year toppled the mild and frail Wilson, in favour of a "New Labour" built upon a hardline, anti-fascist foreign policy, and a strong social net for veterans.

It appears she's taken this popularity all the way to the top, with "New Labour" candidates sweeping nationwide, such as the latest "Baby of the House", Anthony Blair, from Sedgewick, at only 21 being elected on a passionate platform of "we must bring them the bomb, before they can bring the bomb to us", warning of potential WMDs in Fascist Argentina. This sabre rattling is only expected to escalate as PM Thatcher has already delivered an address to the Nation in which she promises to "undo the mistakes of the previous government, by any means necessary"

Frontpage of Pravda (English)

November 5th, 1974

Death Blow to the Rat's Lair!

Za Rodinu, Rule Britannia!

Comrade Brezhnev was overjoyed today, to compliment Comrade Thatcher on finally ridding the world of the Hitlerite threat. For the last 3 months, joint British-Soviet forces have engaged the fascist menace of Argentina at sea and by air. The senile puppet of Perón, being unable to match the combined Red Fleets, despite interference from his capitalist lackeys of America and NATO.

Since the British Special Boat Service landed in Buenos Aires in October, the entire nation has been up in flames, with fruitless assaults from the Nazi menace against the united armies of Britain and Russia. Fighting in the streets of Buenos Aires was tough, but the spirit of The Great Patriotic War was tougher, and the despots were forced to retreat to Córdoba. Here they again attempted to hold back the red tide, the fascists hiding behind their curtain of iron waited and waited for the oncoming assault.

But no more would the allied armies, which had spent so many lives ridding Europe of the German menace, waste any more sons to protect the lives of Argentines. And so yesterday, Comrade Thatcher of the United Socialist Kingdom, took the brave decision of unleashing

the full and total power of the Atom upon the final reactionary lair. Reports are still coming in, but the victory toll is expected to be high, and many senior nationalist politicians and collaborators have already turned themselves over to liberating forces, in vain hopes of leniency. At last some of these monsters, who haven't seen justice for crimes committed during the last war, will be brought before Peoples' Tribunals and shown the fairness of Soviet arbitration.

The trials for the worst of these villains, those members of the NSDAP who escaped by submarine like cowards to Argentina after their invading force was repulsed by the Red Army some 29 years before, will be tried in Nuremberg as soon as time allows, and they may expect as much forgiveness and understanding as they showed to the countless butchered citizens of Russia and her sister Republics. Justice long awaited, is justice served most fairly.