

"..... and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours ....."



### The Return Passage

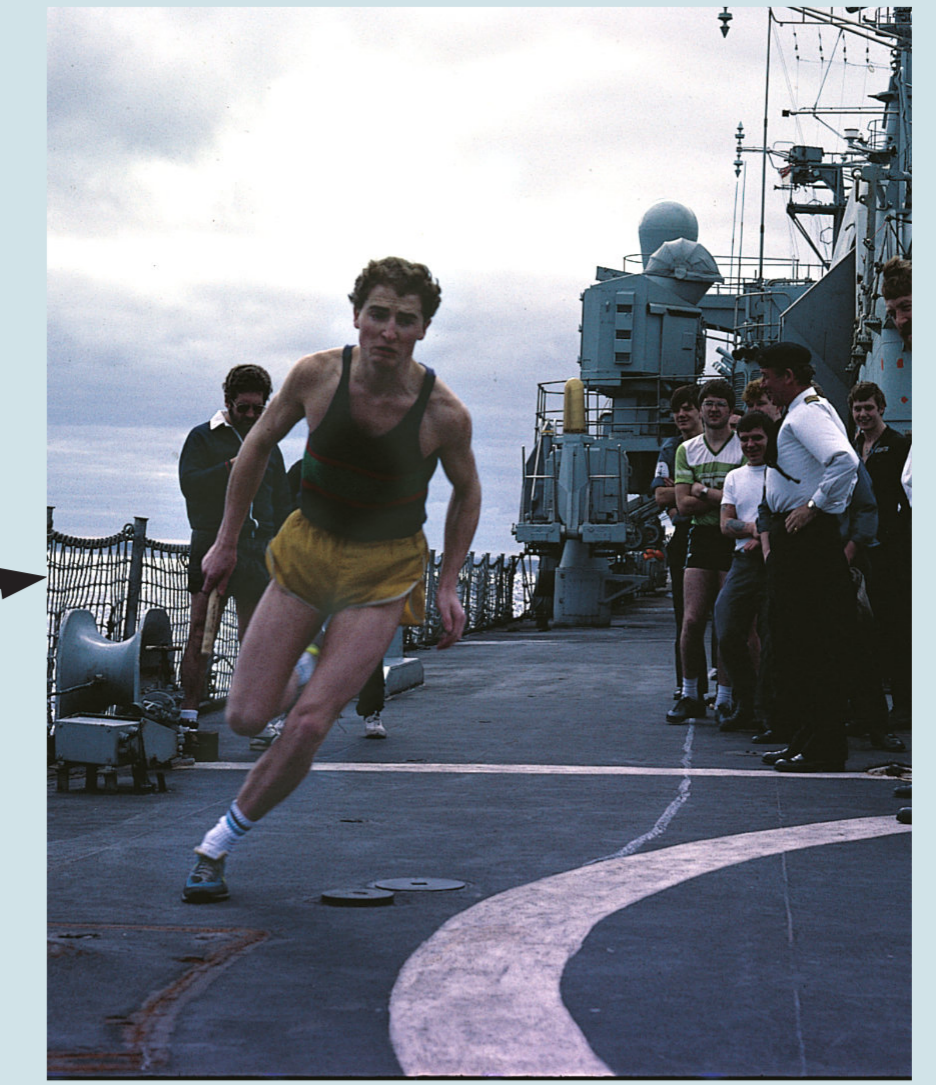
We left South Georgia on 26 June and set off for Ascension. The weather was lousy but with our tanker RFA *Blue Rover* we made good time.

- We:
  - judged the beard-growing competition which raised £1,500 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.
  - held a memorial service for those killed in the Falklands.
  - completed a 100x1 mile (7 circuits of the Upper Deck) relay race in 30 knots of wind and a pitching deck.
  - held a barbecue and folk evening with scurrilous songs which would have no place today!

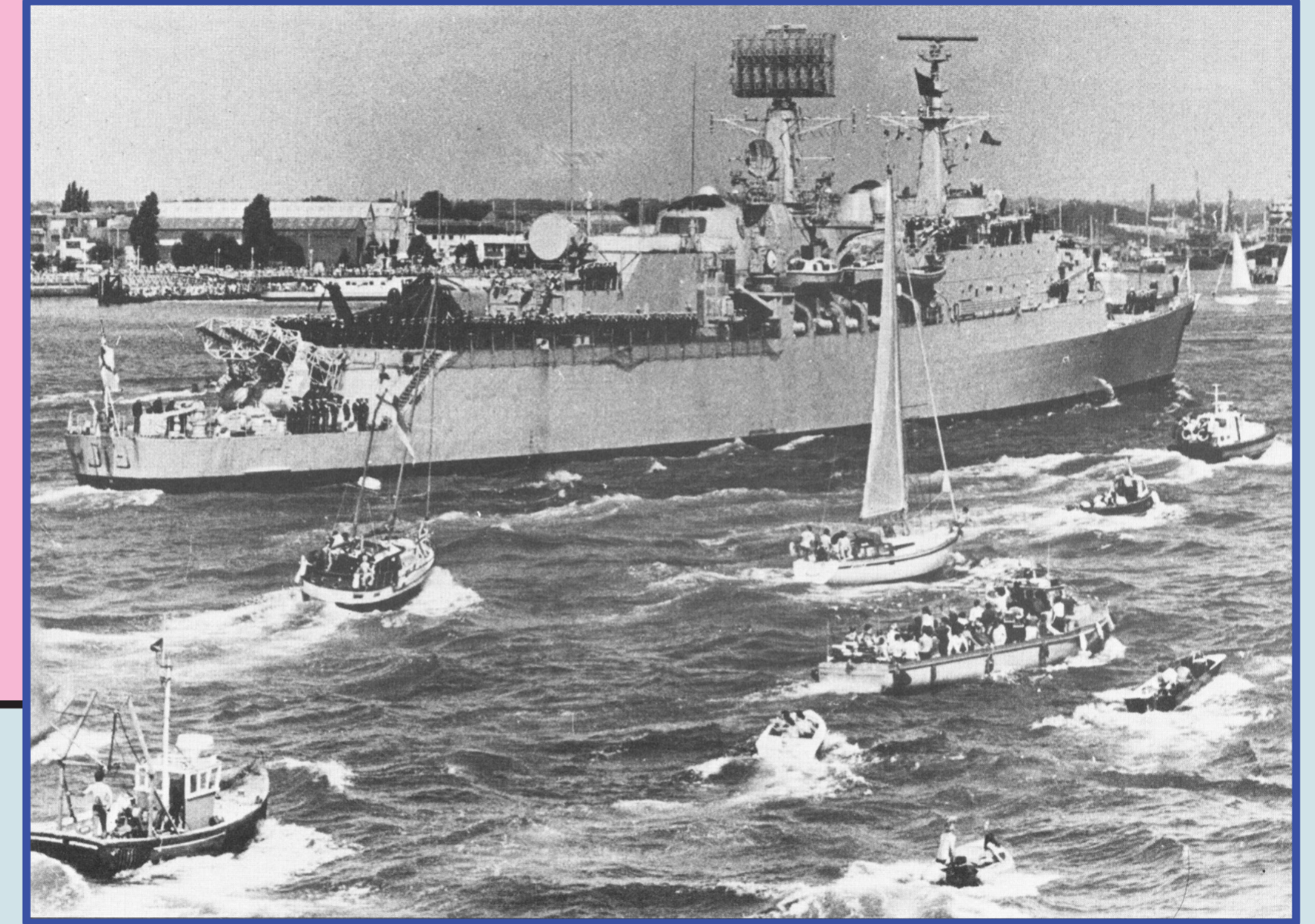
We stopped briefly at Ascension, landed an Advanced Leave Party, collected mail and provisions (the first fresh tomatoes for 12 weeks) and sailed for home.

16 July CinC Fleet flew onboard off Portland to welcome us back and, in the same breath, to warn us that *Antrim* would be returning to the Falklands once repairs were completed in the Autumn! That night we anchored at Spithead, with the lights of home tantalisingly close.

17 July we entered Portsmouth with a piper from our affiliated regiment, the Royal Irish Rangers, playing us home.



'He that outlives this day, and comes safe home, Will stand a tiptoe when this day is named.' Shakespeare Henry V



17 March to 17 July 1982  
 32,767 miles steamed (1.3 times the circumference of the earth)  
 2,583 hours underway [107 days 15 hours]  
 12.68 knots average speed

RETURN

**When the ship that is tired returneth**  
 With the signs of the sea showing plain,  
 Men place her in dock for a season  
 And her speed she reneweth again.

So shalt thou, lest perchance thou grow weary,  
 In the uttermost parts of the sea,  
 Pray for leave, for the good of the Service,  
 As much and as oft as may be.'

Extract from Rear Admiral Hopwood 'Laws of the Navy' published 1919

- ### Honours & Awards (HMS ANTRIM)
- Distinguished Service Order**
    - Captain B. G. Young, RN\*
    - Lieutenant-Commander I. Stanley, RN\*
  - Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Military Division)**
    - Commander R. J. Sandford RN
  - Distinguished Service Cross**
    - Fleet Chief Petty Officer (Diver) M. G. Fellows<sup>1</sup>
  - British Empire Medal (Military)**
    - Chief Air Engineering Artificer (M) D. J. Heritier
  - Mentioned in Despatches**
    - Sub Lieutenant S. G. Cooper, RN\*
    - Marine Engineering Mechanic (M) 1st Class C. Crowley
    - Petty Officer Aircrewman D. B. Fitzgerald\*
    - Sub-Lieutenant D. E. Graham, RN
    - Chief Petty Officer (Ops) (M) E. Graham
    - Marine Engineering Mechanician (M) 1st Class T. Miles
    - Lieutenant C. J. Parry, RN\*
    - Sub-Lieutenant A. Pringle, RN
  - Commander-in-Chief's Commendation**
    - Sub-Lieutenant M. A. Bonney, RN
    - Weapon Engineering Artificer 1st Class F. Latham
    - Petty Officer Weapon Engineering Mechanician (R) G. W. Lockwood
    - Petty Officer Weapon Engineering Mechanician (M) G. K. Robertshaw
    - Marine Engineering Mechanician (M) 1st Class D. I. Roberts
    - Able Seaman (M) C. W. Waterfall
- Note:**
1. FCPO Fellows was not a member of the ship's company but was tasked to HMS Antrim on 21 May to investigate an unexploded Argentine bomb lodged in her Seaslug missile magazine. He and his team removed the bomb after working for 10 hours in very hazardous conditions.
- \* Immediate awards for Operation Paraquet

Having arrived home, the ship was put in dock for action damage repairs. After sailing, we 'worked up' again and conducted a ceremonial visit to Larne in our named county Antrim. In October 1982 we were sent back to the Falklands for a further 6 months, just 3 months after coming home!  
*Antrim* was sold out of RN service to Chile in 1984 where she was renamed *Almirante Cochrane* after the British Naval Officer who commanded the Chilean Navy 1818-1822 and assisted in the defeat of Spain in Chile's War of Independence. She was decommissioned in 2006 and scrapped in 2010.

**Awards (HMS ANTRIM)**  
 Subsequently Petty Officer (Missileman) Edward Lee Wells was awarded the *British Empire Medal* for his work onboard during this time.

### The Cost of War

As well as the considerable material losses of ships and aircraft on both sides during the 74 day conflict there was a human toll:

- 649 Argentine servicemen killed and 1188 wounded.
- 255 UK servicemen killed and 777 wounded
- 3 Falkland Islanders killed

Post war studies showed that suicide was less common amongst veterans than the general population, but a 1987 study found some symptoms of PTSD in half of a sample group of veterans and full symptoms in 22% of the sample. Today, several charities work with the NHS and veterans' groups to provide both practical and mental health support including **Veterans' Outreach Support**, a Portsmouth based charity which helps all three Services and the Merchant Navy. We have chosen this charity and the **South Atlantic Medal Association** to benefit from any of your donations which will be gratefully received.

'We have fed our sea for a thousand years  
 And she calls us still unfed,  
 Though there is never a wave of all her waves  
 But marks our British dead:  
 We have strewed our best to the weed's unrest,  
 To the shark and the sheering gull.  
 If blood be the price of admiralty,  
 Lord God we have paid in full.'

Rudyard Kipling 'The Song of the Dead'

Please generously donate to **Veterans' Outreach Support and South Atlantic Medal Association.**

By cash into the collecting box nearby or by the Museum's card reader