

826 NAS 'Superstars'

Falklands Homecoming 40th Anniversary Celebrated In London

The Falkland Islands ? Where ? Most were asking in early April 1982, and so the story began.

We all served with different squadrons during our time in the FAA, however few were lucky enough to serve in 826 NAS, the Royal Navy's largest squadron embarked in HMS Hermes, the flagship of the Falkland's task force. The 'Superstars' were going south.

826 Squadron was not only the largest FAA squadron but an ASW force to be reckoned with. Our Seaking Mk II + V aircraft protected the task force around the clock steaming south from Ascension Island until later redeployed prior to D-day for the landing phase. Embarked in RFA Fort Austin, MV Atlantic Causeway (and I recall) a sheep shearer's shed in San Carlos we supported the landing and the ground offensive ashore. Under the command of our late and dearly missed CO Cdr Doug Squire our aircraft were deployed in every rôle we had ever trained for... and then many for which we had not!

Recently, the detective work began to trace the original 'Superstars' and a very well attended celebration was held commemorating our safe return to Culdrose in late summer '82. Members travelled from as far away as Thailand, New South Wales and of course Cornwall to join the celebrations held at the Victory Services Club London. Our esteemed SP Tony Hogg (or possibly his younger brother!) led proceedings and many memories were shared.

Esprit de corps is valued highly in the British Armed Forces. The bond between us having the shared experience of service in the Falklands is as alive today as it was 40 years ago. Here's hoping the next reunion is as much of a success.

Lt.Cdr. Richard Noble (P)
826 NAS 1981-82

More pictures can be found at <http://www.826superstars40th.uk>