

# British ships, planes, artillery hit Argentines

**EAST FALKLAND ISLAND (AP)** — British forces blitzed Argentine positions around Stanley with artillery, bombs and surrender leaflets Thursday, but the Argentines refused to give in and battled British commandos six miles west of the Falklands capital in fog, mud

and snow, reports from the front said. Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has made "one last offer" to Argentina to withdraw its troops from the Falklands before what likely will be a

bloody battle for the capital. It gave no details and did not say whether Argentina replied. A top Argentine general at the United Nations said, however, his government would not withdraw if that was a condition for a cease-fire. British government sources

said Thatcher also has given the British commanders the go-ahead to attack Stanley "when-ever they are ready" and assured them they will not be held up for "political or diplomatic reasons."

Military sources in London said Maj. Gen. Jeremy Moore, commander of British ground forces in the Falklands, is not expected to unleash the final offensive until the weekend while he moves up troops, heavy weapons and supplies to the front line along the high ground west of the capital.

British correspondents said Moore, looking through binoculars, viewed the blue and white Argentine flag above the former British governor's residence in Stanley and quoted him as telling his men: "We'll hoist the Union Jack down there just as soon as we can get there. And believe me, it won't be long."

Informed sources in London, who asked not to be identified, reported firefights as British Special Air Service squads probed the Argentine defense perimeter about six miles west of Stanley. But there was no official confirmation or word on casualties.

British Harrier jets dropped bombs and thousands of leaflets calling on the Argentine troops to surrender. Half the leaflets bore "safe conduct passes" in English and Spanish signed by Rear Adm. John Woodward, commander of the 100-ship British armada around

the South Atlantic islands that Argentina seized from Britain April 2.

Other leaflets called on the estimated 7,000 Argentines to make the "correct and honorable" decision to give themselves up like their comrades on South Georgia island, 700 miles to the east, who surrendered April 25-26, the Defense Ministry in London said.

On the reverse were photographs of the Argentine commander on South Georgia, Lt. Cmdr Alfredo Astiz, signing the surrender document on board a British frigate.

The leaflets said: "Think of the danger you are in. Your rations and war supplies are in short supply because of the British naval blockade. Matters will get even worse. Think of your loved ones and the home that awaits your happy return."

But the Argentines held fast and fired salvos from 155mm guns at British marine commandos blazing away with 105mm guns from the heights overlooking Stanley. The British gunners were backed by Harrier jet strikes and offshore naval bombardment.

The privately-owned Argentine news agency DYN quoted naval sources as saying some British Harriers were now equipped with U.S.-supplied Sidewinder air-to-air missiles.

## Gunman hits Israeli official

**LONDON (AP)** — The Israeli ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov, was shot and critically wounded Thursday night in an assassination attempt outside a London hotel, police and Foreign Office sources reported.

They said Argov was taken alive to London's Westminster Hospital, and that Argov's assailant was shot and wounded by police of Scotland Yard's Diplomatic Protection Group after the attack on the ambassador outside the Dorchester Hotel.

He said the suspected assailant was "detained under guard" in a central London hospital, but did not disclose the man's condition or identify him.

The spokesman said that, soon after the shooting, police arrested two people in a car and "a weapon was recovered" in the south London district of Brixton across the River Thames from the swank Mayfair district where the Dorchester is located.

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