LIFE IN THE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
The FALKLAND ISLANDS are a British Colony and lie in the South Atlantic about 480 miles north-east of Cape Horn.
There are two main islands and many smaller ones. Everywhere the coastline is deeply indented, the surface is generally hilly. Mount Usborne is the highest point at 2,312 feet. The islands are made up of moorland with scattered rocky outcrops.

The over-all area is 4,700 square miles.

The population of about 2,100 is all of European, and mainly British, descent.

This folder contains very little else by way of statistics, and if you wish to know details of the economy, history, topography and so forth you should read the latest edition of the Falkland Islands Report which is issued biennially. Copies on loan are available from the Recruitment Division of the Ministry of Overseas Development, the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations, and most good public libraries in Britain.

Information may also be obtained from the Falkland Islands Company, Ltd., in London, at 120 Pall Mall.

If you would like to read more deeply, an informative book is The Falkland Islands by Cawkell, Maling & Cawkell (published by Macmillan & Co. at 18s).

The object of this folder is to give persons who may be travelling to the Falkland Islands, or who may be thinking about joining Government or other service there, some idea of what life is like.
A formal occasion. A Guard of Honour of the Falkland Islands Defence Force, which is a voluntary Territorial Army organisation, being inspected by the Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic and South America Station who was visiting the Islands in one of H.M. Ships.

This photograph was taken in the capital, Stanley, in the middle of summer, which is January.
An aerial view of Stanley, the capital

A little over half the total population of the Colony lives in Stanley. The next largest place is Goose Green, also on the East Falkland, with a population of about 100.

Just to the left of the thin black line which runs vertically through the picture, you can see Christ Church Cathedral; the black building seen behind the Cathedral is one of the schools.

Sappers' Hill is in the upper middle of the picture and Mount William on the upper right.

The ship at the jetty is R.M.S. 'Darwin', the Islands mail steamer.
Stanley from the West

Government House is in the centre of the picture

The two large buildings beyond the Government House grounds are the Hospital and the Secretariat.

The buildings at left front are part of 'Little Italy' Government Officers Housing. Racecourse Cottage is on the right front. The Racecourse itself is outside the front of the photograph.
POLITICS

The Falklands are British and democratic and adult suffrage is universal. Political parties on the United Kingdom model are unknown but problems are thoroughly discussed just as they are in Britain.

Conversations in the public bars, chatter in the clubs, and fireside arguments are replicas of those in England: admittedly the problems are very local ones but they do not lack interest for all that.

The Government of the Colony is administered by the Governor with the Executive Council, which, like the Cabinet in the United Kingdom, is the policy making body; and the Legislative Council, which, like Parliament, approves all legislation.

The Legislative Council has a majority of non-official members.
LAW AND ORDER

There is no crime to worry about.

There is a Prison but in 1962, 1963 and 1964 there were no prisoners to put in it.

You can wander about happily all over the place, and so can children.

The Police Force, which is seven strong, look and behave like country policemen in Britain.
A shepherd and his family ride into a settlement to spend the week-end with friends. Children in the Camp grow up with horses, but soon change to aircraft when they are old enough to attend a boarding school.

Note the clothing this family wear: warm on a misty winter day.
Sheep farming is the industry upon which the Colony exists. Fine wools are only produced from fine sheep.

Sheep awaiting shearing in the Goose Green shearing sheds of the Falkland Islands Company Limited.
Shearing time is the busiest time of the year.

This photograph was taken in a shearing shed belonging to the Falkland Islands Company. Similar scenes can be seen on any of the farms owned by other companies and private individuals.

Baling wool for export to the U.K.
THE WEATHER

The climate is no worse than that of Britain. It is better in winter with no fog and murky gloom, no deep snows and very little severe frost.

Summer is not so good, the sun shines a lot but the winds tend to be cool.

Winds of gale force occur on three or four days of every month and absolutely still calm days occur very infrequently.

A good windcheater or anarak, and a warm sweater are a must, but raincoats are not the regular wear they are in England.

Temperatures seldom fall below 20°F or rise above 72°F.

Rosy cheeks go with living in the Falkland Islands.

The working attire of a man out all day.
THE ECONOMY AND THE CAMP

The Falkland Islands produce sheep for wool. There is no other industry.

The following figures tell their own story:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>£</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>412,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>503,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>545,346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Imports: 412,549  503,351  545,346
Exports: 940,433  1,077,887  1,049,506
Re-exports: 9,212  10,711  15,000

The Camp (as the countryside outside Stanley is known) is not a primitive wilderness as some people might suppose. People live in comfort and without exception are well housed.

Life in the Camp is the life of the open air, and the Camp is a wonderful place in which to spend holidays.
HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

There are No Mosquitoes.  There is No smog.

No lice            No industrial pollution
No fleas          No serious endemic disease
No snakes         More sunshine than is recorded at Kew.

This picture tells its own story:
the climate is ideal for children.

There is a modern 32-bed hospital in Stanley. The Colony has four doctors, one to every 520 persons.
An Annual Children's Tea-party.

CHILDREN

Schools with British staff take children from 5 to 14 years of age.

Overseas scholarships are awarded, and Overseas Education Allowances are given for all children who receive further education outside the Colony.
Children in the Falklands are:

Healthy

Happy

Sturdy
INCOME TAX

Wherever you go you will be taxed but taxation in the Falkland Islands is lower than in the United Kingdom.

Comparative sample figures, as at 1st March, 1965, are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>1 child under 11</th>
<th>2 children under 11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£500</td>
<td>£50 1 4</td>
<td>£9 7 6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>F.Is.</td>
<td>£19 4 -</td>
<td>£6 4 -</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
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<td>£185 10 2</td>
<td>£136 2</td>
<td>£88 11 5</td>
<td>£51 14 8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>£51 10 -</td>
<td>£39 -</td>
<td>£26 10 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£1,500</td>
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<td>£296 8 6</td>
<td>£249 19 9</td>
<td>£201 11 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.Is.</td>
<td>£136 2 -</td>
<td>£113 7 -</td>
<td>£95 17 -</td>
<td>£80 11 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£2,000</td>
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<td>£456 16 10</td>
<td>£409 8 1</td>
<td>£361 19 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.Is.</td>
<td>£206 2 -</td>
<td>£183 7 -</td>
<td>£165 17 -</td>
<td>£148 7 -</td>
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The following are the only items subject to import duties:

- Beer (1/2d. per gal.)
- Wines (British - 4/6d. per gal.; foreign - 6/6d. per gal.)
- Cigarettes (British - 5/- per lb.; foreign - 10/- per lb.)
- Tobacco (British - 5/7d. per lb.; foreign - 6/- per lb.)
- Matches (British - 5/- per gross boxes; foreign - 10/- per gross boxes)

Spirits (126/- per gal.)
FINANCE AND BANKING

The economy is buoyant, and if you are interested in details you can read them up in the Colony's latest Biennial Report.

Government Savings Bank. With easy to operate accounts.

The Falkland Islands Co. Ltd.  Both of these operate accounts and issue cheque books for local use. They also operate agency accounts overseas.

Estate Louis Williams

A commission of 1% is charged by the Colonial Treasury on remittances abroad, but allotments by any officer in Government service may be made free, provided they are made in single monthly instalments and do not exceed half the officer's monthly salary.
THE CHURCHES

There are three Church organisations in the Islands.

ANGLICAN - Outside Christ Church Cathedral. The Governor is seen leaving after a service on Battle Day - an annual holiday which is on the 8th of December.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
In St. Mary's Church, Stanley.

UNITED FREE CHURCH -
A happy couple leave the Tabernacle, in Barrack Street, Stanley. The Guard of Honour is from the Girls' Brigade, one of the Colony's enthusiastic young organisations.
In the Falklands Christmas comes in mid-summer.

In Stanley there are fourteen shops carrying a comprehensive range of goods. There are two main grocery shops, fancy goods shops, electrical equipment and hardware stores, outfitting establishments, photographic and radio sellers and a Co-op.

Being so far away from the main sources of supply prices reflect freight charges, but because there is no purchase tax and import charges are levied only on alcohol (whisky retails at about 35/6d. a bottle), and tobacco costs about 16/4d.), prices are still reasonable.

Note: An up-to-date list of commodity prices may be seen at the Ministry of Overseas Development.
HOMES AND GARDENS

Gardening in the Falkland Islands: surely not?

The lupins in the above picture are fair samples of lupins everywhere in the Islands. Most vegetables grow extremely well in the Colony, but peas and beans do not appear to have taken a real liking to local soil, although even they do well in certain places.
Homes and Gardens

Housing is of a high standard. Heating is by peat, which can be purchased, or if a householder wishes he can be allocated his own peat-bank on a do it yourself basis. Oil and electrical heating are also available but cost more.
SOCIAL LIFE

You can join all kinds of clubs, social, sporting, and technical.

The Amateur Dramatic Society puts on productions ranging from pantomime to psychological drama.

The Mid-winter (June) Fancy Dress Dance.
The May Queen Ball.

A 'Saturday Night Session'

A rehearsal for a broadcast from the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station.
(There is no television)
Rifle Shooting. - The Falkland Islands are well-known contenders at Bisley, where they also win trophies. Ladies .22 Rifle teams do well during the winter indoor championships.
SOCCER. - But no Rugger (the ground is too hard).

CRICKET. - With all the excitement of village cricket in England.

FISHING. - These are trout, and they come bigger.
Salmon have also been introduced and are doing well.
For those who like sea-fishing, mullet run up to 20 pounds.

INDOOR SPORTS include Basketball : Netball : Badminton : and Cricket.
WILDLIFE

No where else in the world do men and penguins live side by side.

Three varieties of penguins breed in the Falklands, and if you are fortunate you can see the rare Macaroni penguin as well.

A pair of beautiful Falkland Islands Kelp Geese.

The birds of the Falklands are very nearly tame. The Islands are an ornithologist's paradise.
Seals and sea elephants abound and can be photographed more easily than in a zoo.

A rescue operation.
LOCAL HOLIDAY FACILITIES

Roads are few but travel within the Islands is easy.

You can travel by one of the Beaver floatplanes of the Falkland Islands Government Air Service (they are the local country buses).

Flying may be a novelty to many people in the United Kingdom, but not in the Falklands.

A family goes aboard one of the aircraft after seeing the dentist, in Stanley. (There are two full-time dentists.)
Voyages around the Islands on R.M.S. 'Darwin' and m.v. 'A.E.S.' are well worthwhile, particularly in summer, and what could be nicer than a week visiting interesting islands and remote and hospitable settlements.

R.M.S. 'Darwin' at Carcass Island

R.M.S. 'Darwin' at West Point Island
and watching the life of the Colony.

The bigger settlements, such as this one at Goose Green, which is also the site of a modern boarding school, are always within easy reach.
All the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands are hardworking, homely, and hospitable people.

You will be very welcome in the Falkland Islands.

Photographs by John Leonard
John Poltock
Lieutenant David S. Dobson, R.N.