

Gurkhas, Falklands and Leadership

(2022, Critical, Cultural and Communications Press, London,
an imprint of **Jetstone Publishers Ltd.**, ISBN 978-1-905510-72-6)

The final book of a combat veteran's trilogy to be published on 2 April 2022,
the start of the 1982 Falklands-Malvinas War's fortieth anniversary

by Major (Retd.) Mike Seear,
former Operations and Training Officer/Public Information Officer, 1st Battalion,
7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles during the 1982 Falklands-Malvinas War.

Author of: *Return to Tumbledown: The Falklands-Malvinas War Revisited*
(2012, CCC Press, London, ISBN 978-1-905510-39-9, Revised Edition 2014)

Co-editor of: *Hors de Combat: The Falklands-Malvinas Conflict in Retrospect*
(2009, CCC Press, London, ISBN 978-1-905510-25-2)
with Commander (Retd.) Diego F. Garcia Quiroga, Tactical Divers Group, Argentine Navy
(*Agrupación de Buzos Tácticos, La Armada de la República Argentina*)

Author of: *With the Gurkhas in the Falklands: A War Journal*
(2003, Barnsley: Pen and Sword, ISBN 0 85052 916 6). Paperback Edition 2008,
reprinted in 2017 (Barnsley: Pen and Sword Military)



(Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.)
1st/7th Gurkha Rifles A Company air sentry on Darwin Hill, East Falkland
in early June 1982.

On *Gurkhas, Falklands and Leadership*: 'OK is not the *mot juste* ... very enjoyable and intriguing ... captivating, tense, effective ... and a cliff-hanger. Rattlingly readable ... gripping stuff ... harrowing but irresistible ... hair-raising ... beautifully written ... a most enduring testimony ... moving ... very well done, indeed. Onwards ...' **Professor Emeritus Bernard McGuirk, University of Nottingham**, expert in post-conflict studies, author of *Falklands-Malvinas: An Unfinished Business* (2007, Seattle, New Ventures), multilinguist and Professor of Romance Literatures and Literary Theory.

(Also included are the stories of fourteen battlefield protagonists: i.e. seven British, including a Nepalese Queen's Gurkha Officer and Gurkha Lance Corporal, and seven Argentines.)

Available on Amazon.com

**Mike Seear – e-mail address: mhs@nordic-crisis.no
tel. no.: + 47 932 68 080**

List of Contents:

Foreword

I accept your request to write this with pleasure and only trust that I may do your book the justice it so merits, Bernard McGuirk.

Acknowledgements

Prologue

Chapter 1 – The interview

Chapter 2 – From Sandhurst to Church Crookham

Chapter 3 – When place in command, take charge

Chapter 4 – Proactive leadership continued

Chapter 5 – At sea

Chapter 6 – Transition to operations

Chapter 7 – Consolidation and initiating (at last) the advance eastwards

Chapter 8 – Enemy air strike and initial Wether Ground ‘incomers’

Chapter 9 – First casualties, Recce Group deployment and battle planning

Chapter 10 – Orders – and a battlefield ‘embedded’ media briefing

Chapter 11 – Final battle preparations ... combat, then delay

Chapter 12 – ‘Fight, flight or freeze’

Chapter 13 – Firefight, mortar strike and ‘blue-on-blue’

Chapter 14 – North-east spur assault; then Mount William. The big one ...

Chapter 15 – Aftermath and combat veteran goodwill ...

Chapter 16 – ... prolonged in Buenos Aires and *Minefield/Campo minado*

Epilogue

100 Leadership Criteria – Gurkhas, Falklands and Leadership

A most inspirational coda. I look forward to celebrating the publication of your meticulously researched and handsomely written latest (I suspect not the last) tome. Once, twice, three times bitten ... not yet.

Bernard McGuirk
Nottingham, March 2022



The official unveiling on 23 April 2019 of ‘The Gurkha Stone’ in the form of a Buddhist Prayer Mani Wall located on East Falkland one kilometre south of Mount William: the 1st/7th DEO Gurkha Rifles final objective in the 1982 war.

Available on Amazon.com

Mike Seear – e-mail address: mhs@nordic-crisis.no
tel. no.: + 47 932 68 080

Dear Mike,

Thank you very much for sending me the advance [news] of the publication of your next book. I wish that the concepts of its content serve to train better fighters based on the experience of those who were lucky enough to be in combat.

– Osvaldo Colombo, retired *Contraalmirante* (Rear Admiral) and former Argentine Second-in-Command, Nacar Company, 5th Marine Infantry Battalion on the east end of Tumbledown in the 1982 Falklands-Malvinas War (e-mail dated 09.03.22).

Dear friend,

Congratulations on the forthcoming release of this book.

Undoubtedly, it will be, in addition to a success, a truly important contribution for the military that will be trained in the future.

Your military experience, in addition to the historical analysis you have been doing for years on the South Atlantic War, is invaluable when analyzing its content.

I hope at some opportunity to have access to this book as well as my son Carlos Jnr., [a serving Argentine Navy officer] who is always attentive to your writings.

Once again I wish you the best winds (phrase of the sea) in this new challenge.

A big hug, Carlos.*



Vázquez Jnr. (l.) and Vázquez Snr. (r.)

* E-mail dated 05.03.22 from retired *Capitán de Navio* (Ship-of-the-Line Captain) Carlos Daniel Vázquez, former Argentine 4 Platoon Commander, Nacar Company, 5th Marine Infantry Battalion in the 1982 Falklands-Malvinas War. His *ad hoc* composite platoon of thirty-six Marines and Army soldiers defended the west end of Tumbledown during the war's final night on 13/14 June. Vázquez's outstanding leadership (in addition to the Royal Artillery's handling of a 'rogue' 105mm Light Gun incident) caused a six-hour delay to the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards advance eastwards along Tumbledown. The planned 1st/7th Gurkha Rifles night assaults on Tumbledown's north-east spur and Mount William consequently took place in full daylight. Following an intensive ten-minute artillery eighteen-gun Regimental Fire Mission on the first objective, both were then taken unopposed by the Gurkhas as the *de facto* ceasefire gradually took hold.

On 25 November 2015 following an official investigation to examine again 4 Platoon's exploits during that final night, Vázquez received an upgraded '*Al Heroico Valor en Combate*' decoration at the Argentine Navy HQ in Buenos Aires.

Available on Amazon.com

**Mike Seear – e-mail address: mhs@nordic-crisis.no
tel. no.: + 47 932 68 080**