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1982 Uncovered:  
The Falklands War Mapping Project

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edited by

Timothy Clack and Tony Pollard



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Cover image: John Litterick and Tumbledown Mountain. Photograph taken by Tony Pollard during a pause in the journey to the battlefield on the first day of fieldwork. Over several minutes the Scots Guards veteran literally faced his demons and thought about turning back. With encouragement from his fellow veteran, Jim Peters, he went forward, as he had done in 1982, and by the end of the day was fully engaged with the project's work. It was one of many moving episodes during the pilot season (credit: Falklands War Mapping Project)

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*For the veterans*



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## Foreword

I always say that I was born to be an archaeologist. Digging in the field, being around other people, thinking about and making sense of the evidence from the past – I’ve found enjoyment in every minute of it. I have no regrets, it’s been my life!

In 2012, the Defence Archaeology Group was set up and I was invited to be its President. There was a formal signing ceremony involving Surgeon Commodore Peter Buxton and me in Nelson’s cabin on HMS Victory no less. The Group came into being in response to the growth of projects that established that archaeology produced positive results for helping wounded, injured, and sick armed forces personnel and veterans in their rehabilitation. The Group aimed to link projects involving service personnel, veterans, and volunteers with archaeologists, charities, and support services.

Then came Waterloo Uncovered, a charity I’ve ended up working with since 2015. Initially, I acted as an archaeological supervisor but, as I’ve got older, I’ve become more involved in promoting the project in front of camera and communicating their amazing findings to different audiences. I’m delighted that Waterloo Uncovered, who have now developed a successful approach to this form of rehabilitation work, are also involved as key project partners of the Falklands War Mapping Project.

So now we come to the Falklands: not archaeology as we know it; but archaeology nonetheless. It may seem distant in time and space from the Battle of Waterloo, but the Falklands War is still understandable through the pioneering methods of battlefield archaeology. In addition, the Falklands War Mapping Project involves some of those most qualified to understand the events of 1982 – veterans of the fighting. The Falklands and Waterloo projects also share the similar themes of archaeology, cutting edge research, comradeship, and healing.

The Falklands War Mapping Project is an extraordinary archaeological project which uniquely involves some of those who created the archaeology. The survival of the evidence linked with the memories of those who were there creates an extraordinary archaeological legacy. One that stimulates understanding of the conflict and inspires contemporary community involvement and creative artworks. It is the first project anywhere in the world to take veterans back to the battlefields on which they fought. This has to be done carefully and

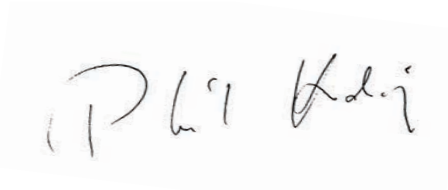


sensitively, with emphasis on mental well-being for those involved, with support from an appropriate team to ensure this happens.

Just think, my life in archaeology, spent digging up people's old, broken rubbish and now to realise that it has additional potential to restore. It's a genuinely humbling revelation. Forty years after the fighting in the Falklands, archaeology has become a tool for healing. Archaeology is a bridge that not only helps people make sense of what happened, but also helps veterans make new associations and memories where once there was trauma. It's a fine project that not only supports veteran recovery but also takes archaeology in new directions. I'm thrilled to support the project and look forward to seeing it grow.

Growth requires nourishment. As such, I urge all readers to make a donation to the Falklands War Mapping Project through Waterloo Uncovered so that they can continue with their ground-breaking efforts. The easiest way to make a contribution is through this link: <https://waterloouncovered.com/donate/>

This book highlights the important contributions the Falklands War Mapping Project has made to date. I'm sure you will enjoy reading it, learning about what the team have been doing, seeing the evocative artworks, and being convinced of the value of this work. Please support it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Harding', is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

*Phil Harding*

*October 2022*



## Acknowledgements

The Falklands War Mapping Project and the *1982 Uncovered* exhibition have been significant undertakings and, inevitably, there are lots of people and institutions to thank linked to support along the way.

The project has received funding from the University of Oxford, Reuben College, Glasgow University, Waterloo Uncovered, Scots Guards Association, and the Veterans' Foundation. Oxford University also generously funded Doug Farthing's travel to the Falkland Islands as part of the 'Art and Conflict Heritage' initiative and the Open Access publication of this book.

The *1982 Uncovered* exhibition was funded by Oxford's School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. St Peter's College is acknowledged gratefully for hosting the exhibition, and the Master, Prof Judith Buchanan and Chaplain, Revd Dr Elizabeth Pitkethly are thanked for their support. The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, Archdeacon of Oxford, kindly gave permission to use the St Peter's Chapel (Church of St Peter Le Bailey). Also at St Peter's, Dr Alison Ray, Archivist, and Hannah Hampstead, Communications Manager, went above and beyond with curatorial and promotional assistance. Wendy from Thistles Gallery and Lowestoft assisted with framing.

Richard Hyslop of the Falklands Islands Government, Lynn Brownlee from the Development and Commercial Team, Robert King of the Falkland Islands Customs and Immigration Service, Harley Berntsen of the Public Works Department, Polly Lennie of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd, and Ru Jarvis of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital all helped ensure we got the team to the South Atlantic in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Various members of the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands Government past and present are also acknowledged for recognising the value of the project and supporting its development, including Roger Edwards, Leona Roberts, Dick Sawle, Gavin Short, and Roger Spink.

In Stanley, Lookout Lodge and the Malvina House Hotel served as first-rate project bases. Zac Cohen and Mandy Floyd, in particular, offered exemplary hospitality. On Tumbledown, we were appreciative of the skills and company of our drivers from Penguin Travel, Kenneth 'Carrot' Morrison and Lachlan 'Lachie' Ross. British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI) and Sergeant James Prentice are thanked for the provision of a safety brief to the team on the threat from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). The battlefield guide, Tony Smith has been a long-standing friend to the project and is thanked for sharing his knowledge. Lots of volunteers helped in the field, including Ian Chilvet, Stephen Dent, Malcolm Hamilton, and Mick Norman.

The Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS) was incredibly flexible and managed superbly the team's air moves between Port Stanley and Pebble Island. Dot and Alex Gould, the owners of Pebble Island, were incredibly welcoming and supportive during our time with them. Charlotte Fenwick at the Falkland Islands Community School, Dorinda Rowlands at Infant/ Junior School and Camp Education, and Sandra

Alazia from Past Finders are thanked for their assistance in facilitating the delivery of art and conflict heritage classes. All three also went to great lengths, in one case with the assistance of the RAF Airbridge, to ensure the artworks of pupils were transported to the UK for exhibition.

In the UK, thanks are owed to Dr Marcus Brittain and David Bailey for contributing ideas and resources from their previous archaeological and historical work in the South Atlantic. Robert Barton graciously shared the archive of his late father, Brigadier F. G. Barton who made multiple visits to the Falkland Islands in 1982 and 1983 as Director of Engineering Services. Thanks are also owed to David Davison at Archaeopress for taking on the current book and Vicki Herring for her excellent illustrations. Prof Mark Gillings of Bournemouth University kindly loaned a 3D laser scanner for use in the field. Lieutenant General (ret'd) Sir John Kiszely and Major General (ret'd) Mike Scott are both owed thanks for their noteworthy support, including help in the recruitment of veterans for the project. Drop Zone Brewery kindly gifted commemorative bottles of (very fine) whisky for the veterans.

Most of all, though, we would like to thank the people of the Falkland Islands for welcoming us and assisting with the research in manifold ways. Their encouragement and assistance have been immense and remain crucial.

# Introduction

*Tony Pollard and Timothy Clack*

The Falklands War Mapping Project delivers the first intensive archaeological survey of the battlefields of the Falklands conflict. Forty years after the events of 1982, the project aims to provide a detailed assessment of the character, location, and condition of structural features and artefacts. This recording is much needed, as over the past four decades remains have been significantly denuded through relic collection, weather-related decay, damage by livestock and vehicles, and assorted infrastructural projects.

In this fortieth anniversary year of the Falklands War, this book and the exhibition which accompanies it showcases some of the findings of the first season of project work. The exhibition, *1982 Uncovered* opened at St Peter's College, Oxford on 4 November 2022. Elements of the exhibition will also be displayed elsewhere in the UK and in the Falkland Islands. Project announcements are made on Twitter @Mapping1982 and details of fieldworks and exhibitions can be found on the project website: [www.falklandswarmappingproject.uk](http://www.falklandswarmappingproject.uk)

The Falklands War Mapping Project is a collaboration between Oxford University, Glasgow University, the Falkland Islands Museum & National Trust, and Waterloo Uncovered, a veteran welfare charity focused on archaeology. Under direction of the authors, the project team comprises archaeologists, anthropologists, heritage specialists, artists, and veterans. The Falklands War Mapping Project is the first project in the world to include veterans as part of the core team and have them engaged in the archaeology of the battlefields on which they saw combat. Their inclusion has not only enriched the archaeological results but also helped them with some of the long-lasting psychological impacts of the war.

## **Back to the field**

The team carried out its first season of fieldwork in March and April 2022, with efforts primarily focused on Mount Tumbledown and Pebble Island. In the field, the team used foot and drone survey and then recorded finds and features through geo-location, photogrammetry, 3D scanning, and drawing. All finds were left *in situ*. The results were at once surprising and informative.

The Tumbledown survey, for example, informed in three main ways. Firstly, the team recorded a large variety and depth of Argentine defensive positions. Sangars, shelters, fortifications, and dispersed objects were found and recorded. Secondly, the team located material remains linked to the battle itself: craters and scarring left by exploding shells and mortars, live and expended rifle rounds, and fragments from assorted munitions. Thirdly, the team were able to map more recent uses of the landscape, which have





*One of the stone-built structures constructed  
by Argentine forces on Mount Tumbledown  
(credit: Falklands War Mapping Project)*



*The remains of an Argentine shelter built into boulders on Mount Tumbledown constructed from corrugated metal (repurposed from barrels), angle irons, rocks, timber, and canvas (credit: Falklands War Mapping Project)*



also left a material signature and link back to the events of 1982. These included debris from more recent military training exercises and commemorative deposits of veterans, families of the fallen, and islanders.

### **Personal battlefields**

It is an unusual privilege for archaeologists to get the opportunity to be in the field with people who actually lived through the events being investigated. On Tumbledown, we were joined by Jim Peters and John Litterick, two veterans of Left Flank, Scots Guards. The two were young men when they fought in the battle, and both, understandably, were impacted significantly by the episode. Jim actually received shrapnel wounds to his right leg and right arm in the battle, and both have suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in relation to their experiences.

Jim and John described their return to the Falkland Islands, and Tumbledown in particular, as being of 'deep significance', 'emotional', 'difficult at times', and 'a personal pilgrimage'. They also voiced that their place on the project gave them a 'historical responsibility'. The courage they exhibited in 1982 was

present again in 2022. They were able to talk the team through their personal actions on the night of the battle – taking us step by step through the terrain – and offer crucial context on finds and features. A PTSD specialist joined the team in the field and recognised that, from a psychological perspective, immersion and exposure to the location of past trauma – under controlled conditions – allowed the veterans to make new memories and associations linked to Tumbledown. Both have benefitted from this in the short-term, and time will tell if the positive psychological impacts are enduring.

*2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment memorial at Goose Green (credit: Dave Pope)*

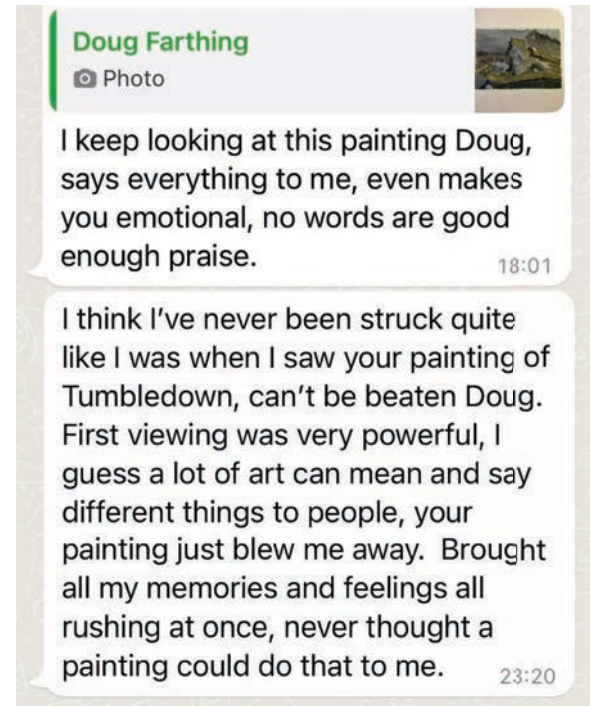




## Public outreach

The Falklands War Mapping Project is a community archaeology project. As such, during the field season, the team held a series of volunteer days on Tumbledown where locals and others assisted enthusiastically with the survey. Collaboration from the curatorial and other staff at the Historic Dockyard Museum fostered engagement in the Falklands and facilitated talks, interviews, archival searches, and work with collections. Members of the Falklands War Mapping Project team also delivered a set of ‘art and conflict archaeology’ sessions at Port Stanley’s Junior School, Community School, and the Historic Dockyard Museum. These sessions were led by Doug Farthing, the project artist and former soldier in The Parachute Regiment. In addition to presentations at various academic events, the Falklands War Mapping Project has also given talks to a range of interested groups, including the Scots Guards Association.

During his time in the field as part of the Falklands War Mapping Project, Doug Farthing produced a series of preliminary artworks. These and other works completed after his return to the UK formed the core of the St Peter’s College *1982 Uncovered* exhibition. Satisfyingly, the work of the Falklands War Mapping Project has inspired other artists and photographers in the Falkland Islands, UK, and elsewhere, and some of their works were also exhibited. It is anticipated that these artworks and exhibitions will continue to resonate widely and get people thinking not only about the events of 1982 in the South Atlantic but also, more widely, the role played by conflict heritage in people’s identities and their recall of personal and social memories.



*Doug’s artwork has also had emotional impacts amongst the team members and, in particular, the veterans. Text of two messages written by one of the veterans sent to the teams’ WhatsApp group (credit: Falklands War Mapping Project)*

## **Future plans**

As the contributions to this book illustrate (see below), the project has achieved a great deal to this point and the potential is vast. The involvement of veterans, the local community, and artists will remain central to our archaeological and heritage endeavours.

The next phases of planned fieldwork, in 2023 and 2024, will involve further survey on Mount Tumbledown, parts of Mount Longdon, and on Middle Mountain and around the airstrip on Pebble Island. Longer-term, the project also intends to map other 1982 battlefields, including Mount Harriet, Mount Kent, and Two Sisters. Survey data, including visualisation tools, are to be deposited with the Falkland Islands Museum & National Trust and, with specialist inputs from the Falklands War Mapping Project team, used to inform protection strategies for 1982-related and other conflict heritage. As capacity at the Falkland Islands Museum & National Trust develops, remote inputs from the UK-based team will ensure survey can be led locally and take place in the absence of the full team.

The project will continue to work with veterans in the pursuit of cathartic outcomes. This includes returning veterans to their battlefields for survey work but also exploring the potential of developing and using survey-based, tactical-level Virtual Reality environments in PTSD and immersion therapy, and in other treatments and welfare activities.

## **Structure of the book**

The book comprises four sections. The first is contextual, and describes history as experienced at different scales by different participants. The preconditions for the Falklands War, which in some ways go back to the first recorded visits to the Falkland Islands in the late seventeenth century, are outlined. These complicated past events, including phases of exploration, garrisoning, trading, settlement, and development, still frame and inform diplomatic relationships and competing claims today. The events of 1982 are considered through narratives of the Pebble Island raid and the Battle of Mount Tumbledown. These accounts not only illuminate what happened, but also how these actions were to fit within the wider campaign. The return home and readjustment after the war are oft-missed part of the campaign. For the combatants of both sides, the experience of return was diverse. For reasons of length, only a single account is provided here, that of a British veteran.

In some ways, Pebble and Tumbledown represent ‘external’ accounts as they, necessarily, focus on combat actions between British and Argentine forces. As such, the section also includes two contributions highlighting the islanders. The coverage is of experience and memories of living under occupation on the one hand, and resistance activities on the other. The voices of islanders are often left out of the historical





*Caption: Photograph taken in 2020 of a boulder on Mount Tumbledown with visible impact scarring and heat damage. Fired and 'cooked off' 7.62mm rounds were found around the feature (credit: Timothy Clack)*

records but, of course, their suffering – both physical and psychological – and experiences had long-lasting impacts. The events – and memories of them – continue to inform and shape relationships and identities.

The results of the Falklands War Mapping Project's first season of fieldwork are explored in Section 2. The value of applying archaeological techniques to the material remains of battlefields of the recent past are considered and so are some finds from earlier research visits by both of the Falklands War Mapping Project directors. These earlier visits were essential drivers for the creation of the current project. The survey results from Mount Tumbledown and Pebble Island are described, with reference to key finds and interpretations.



*The Falklands War Mapping team at the memorial cross on Mount Tumbledown in April 2022  
(credit: Falklands War Mapping Project)*

Also detailed are the efforts to create a ‘digital Tumbledown’ and how such a tool might be useful in terms of visualisation, education, conservation, and therapy.

Section 3 provides insight into the Falklands War Mapping Project’s activities corresponding to veterans, community, art, and well-being. The experiences of Jim Peters, one of the veterans in the project team, are described. This is an intimately personal story, incorporating narrative, mental health, emotion, and memory. Some of the psychological impacts of war, in particular PTSD, are also outlined. The long-lasting nature of these impacts should not be underestimated. Forty years on from the Battle of Mount Tumbledown, Jim, for



example, still suffers from debilitating nightmares, insomnia, and survivor guilt. The role of archaeology in potentially enhancing well-being is considered linked to the outcomes of the Falklands War Mapping Project's first season.

The Falklands War Mapping Project is partnered with Waterloo Uncovered and the Falkland Islands Museum & National Trust. Information on both of these organisations and their relevance to the project are included in this section. Waterloo Uncovered, for example, has innovated fieldwork and risk management practise linked to veteran duty of care. In the Falklands, the Falkland Islands Museum & National Trust has a unique role as a hub for the community and in sharing historical knowledge with islanders and visitors. Through exhibitions and object curatorship, the Historic Dockyard Museum is also central to the remembrance of key events, in particular those of 1982. The Falklands War Mapping Project has already exhibited some of its work as part of the commemorative 'Etched in Memory' Exhibition, which opened at the Museum on the anniversary of the liberation of the Islands. The project will also exhibit additional materials at the museum, including artworks, in the future.

Whilst the Falkland Islands Mapping Project works with British military veterans and islanders, Argentina also has many veterans from the events of 1982. Inspired by Waterloo Uncovered and similar programmes in the UK and US, a recent project run by Argentine archaeologists has engaged Argentine veterans of the conflict in archaeological fieldwork on sites in Argentina. Their project, which is described in a chapter by Carlos Landa, Juan Leoni, and Sebastián Ávila, has also seen therapeutic dividends for participants. In addition, their project has used remote sensing data and veteran testimonies to reconstruct various Falklands War battles.

Returning to the Falklands War Mapping Project, the role art has played is also discussed in this section. As the project artist, Doug Farthing recounts his life as a soldier and artist and how the two existences have informed each other. He also shares his experiences of being in the field with the archaeological team – his first foray into the art of the aftermath of war – and artistic and personal response to the terrain, people, and memories. Another artist, Katie Russell explains her motivations for getting involved in the project – a process of remote inspiration – and engagement with the team's photographs, press coverage, and artworks. As a tapestry artist, she also describes how weaving promotes well-being. A full catalogue of project/exhibition artworks is provided in Section 4.