

Squadron-Leader Nigel Beresford of Milton is one of the VC10 pilots who have been engaged in flying Service personnel between Ascension Island and the U.K. We asked him to give us some thoughts on recent operations and are proud to reproduce them here.

THEY ALSO SERVE

Our name is Royal Air Force Brize Norton. We normally go quietly about our peacetime business acting as just another airport which sees people departing for or arriving from overseas duty, yet suddenly the conflict in the South Atlantic throws us into the limelight and we have to show the world our real mettle: our ability to reinforce and supply a fighting force over 8000 miles away.

Although not in the front line, our VC 10 aircraft toiled hard; a momentous stream moving towards a wideawake airfield on Ascension Island. The statistics will show that supporting the Task Force meant 17,000 hours in the air moving 7000 tons of freight, 5500 passengers, 100 vehicles and 20 helicopters, but never a complaint from the bleary-eyed crews and support teams who had forgotten which day of the week it was, or even which week! The statistics hide the soldiers going to war and the survivors coming home but the conflict, which was a short and bloody affair, is thankfully over - Port Stanley is retaken and once more the Union Jack flies over the Falkland Islands. Our fighting men have returned by sea and air, and we have hosted the thousands who came to welcome home their relatives and friends.

Now we resume business as normal - no limelight, no TV cameras, no Generals to welcome home their men. Something else will catch your attention, but don't forget that Brize Norton is on the doorstep of your community and is there, ready once again to respond to whatever it is called upon to do.

TRANSIRE CONFIDENTER
