

MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO OR ORDERED BY ARGENTINA

Major weapons (aircraft, armoured vehicles and heavy artillery, missiles and warships)

- 1 second hand aircraft carrier, "Colossus". Supply date uncertain.
- 6 second hand coastal minesweepers. Supply date uncertain.
- 2 Type 42 frigates, *Hercules* and *Santissima Trinidad*. One built in Argentina under licence from Vickers.
- Seacat ship-to-air missiles made by Short Brothers Ltd of Belfast. Supply date uncertain.
- 12 Sea Dart ship-to-air missiles made by British Aerospace. Supply date uncertain.
Probably made in Hatfield and/or Bolton.
- 20 Tigercat surface-to-air missiles, 10 to Marines, 10 to Army, made by Short Brothers Ltd of Belfast.
- 10 Lynx helicopters from Westland Aircraft Ltd of Yeovil. Ordered 1977 and 1979. Total 6 delivered.
- Shorland armoured cars for the gendarmerie. Made by Short Brothers Ltd of Belfast. Supply date and no. uncertain.
- 9 Canberra B62 bomber aircraft. Ordered early 1970s. Number delivered uncertain.

Military equipment not classified as major weapons

- 100 sub machine guns from Sterling Armament Co., Dagenham, Essex. (Five with 'silencers'). 1975
- Ferranti 'Isis' sights for Argentine Air Force Skyhawk(US) aircraft. Made in Bracknell. 1976.
- Ferranti 'Seaspray' radar for Lynx helicopters. Made in Edinburgh. 1977
- Decca 'Clearscan' radar for fast patrol boats. Made in Walton on Thames. 1979
- Redifon HF and VHF radio systems for coastal patrol boats. Made in London SW18. 1979
- Vickers gear pumps for West German built frigates. Made in Barrow. Ordered 1980
- Rediffusion Radio Systems further radio transmitters for naval stations. Made in Surbiton. Ordered 1981
- Rolls-Royce engines for Italian built jet trainer aircraft. Some reported sighted but delivery uncertain. 1981
- Doncasters Moorside 'Morgrip' bolts for propellers on naval vessels. Made in Oldham. Ordered Sept/Oct 1981
- Racal-Decca electronic support measures (ESM) for eavesdropping on radio and radar. Ordered Sept/Oct 1981
- Smiths Industries 250 Mach/airspeed indicators for Argentinian-built counter insurgency aircraft.
Ordered Sept/Oct 1981
- Vosper Thornycroft pneumatic controls for patrol boats and corvettes. Ordered Sept/Oct 1981
- Blowpipe man-portable supersonic anti-aircraft missiles made by Short Brothers Ltd of Belfast. Ordered 1981
- Plessey Ferranti modifications for Type 42 frigates. Done in the late 1970s in the UK.



The military equipment supplied by Britain has been almost exclusively naval, apart from the Shorland armoured cars and the Tigercat and Blowpipe missiles. The value of the sales for the last five years has been:-
(£ million) 1977 £0.7; 1978 £4.9; 1979 £62.6; 1980 £46.7; 1981 £12.5

Other countries supplying arms to Argentina over the period 1977-81 were:- West Germany 33%, USA 17%, France 15%, Israel 14%. Britain was the next largest supplying 10%
Following the arms ban imposed by President Carter, Argentina has looked to European countries to supply the licences and designs to enable it to move towards self sufficiency in arms. Argentina is now one of the major Third World arms producers. As far as information is available, a substantial number of the export licences appear to have been issued under a Labour Government.
Argentinian forces personnel have been receiving military training in Britain since at least 1979. In 1981 some British forces personnel were also reported to be on loan or secondment to Argentina.
Argentina has attended Britain's annual military equipment show since at least 1978, sending delegations of between 7 and 12.

SOME POINTS ABOUT THE HELICOPTERS AND MISSILES

- Lynx** Called by its manufacturers, Westland Aircraft Ltd, "the most advanced helicopter of its class in the world".
"In two years time (ie 1982) it will be the finest fighting helicopter any country could want" said the commanding officer of the Lynx's parent 702 squadron. *Flight International*, 9 August 1980.
May be used for anti-submarine warfare and is in service on Type 42 frigates.
Uses Ferranti Seaspray radar. Decca Tans computers and Decca electronic support measures.
- Seacat** A close range ship-to-air guided missile for anti-aircraft defence.
Its makers, Short Brothers Ltd, describe it as "Britain's export best-seller in guided weapons".
Flies with almost any radar system and can avoid radar detection by flying at zero altitude.
- Tigercat** Ground-to-air version of Seacat. Supplied to Argentinian Army and Marines.
- Sea Dart** Long range ship-to-air missile complementary to Seawolf. Manufacturers, British Aerospace, boast of its "high lethality" and "rapid reaction".
Propelled by Rolls-Royce ram jet and used on Type 42 frigates and fast patrol boats.
Made by British Aerospace Dynamics.

SOME POINTS IN THE HISTORY OF BRITISH MILITARY EXPORTS TO ARGENTINA

Note that items supplied at a date which is uncertain do not appear in this listing. See over for details

- 1970 Order for first Type 42 frigate "Hercules" built by Vickers-Barrow
Licence to build Type 42 frigate "Santissima Trinidad" in AFNE shipyards in Rio Santiago
- 1975 Sabotage of "Santissima Trinidad" delays production.
- Jul 75 100 sub-machine guns (5 with silencers) sold to Argentinian Navy by Sterling Armament.
- 24 March 1976 Military take-over. Diplomatic relations broken off, British Ambassador withdrawn.
- Nov 76 Ferranti Isis sights fitted to Argentine Airforce A-4 Skyhawk aircraft
- 1977 Order for 2 Lynx helicopters from Westland Aircraft, fitted with Ferranti Seaspray radar.
Type 42 frigate "Hercules" enters service with the Argentinian Navy
- Jan 77 Interest shown in Hawker Siddeley Coastguarder aircraft
- Jul 77 United States under President Carter votes for a phasing out of military assistance, credits and exports in view of the poor Argentinian record on human rights. Britain does not follow suit.
- Aug 77 Britain claims to be near to clinching a deal for 7 more Amazon class frigates, but fears that the situation with the Falkland Islands may jeopardise negotiations. Deal would be worth £500 million which would include training.
Frigate Santissima Trinidad meanwhile being rebuilt after a sabotage attack.
Construction of the first 6 Amazon class frigates said to be mid-way, much work done in Brazil.
- Mid 77 No success in Rome talks on the Falkland Islands
- Nov 77 Argentina announces it has "manpower and technology" to produce an atom bomb.
- Jul 78 Admiral Massera on a 'private' visit to London visits the First Sea Lord and senior officials at the Foreign Office, Department of Trade and Bank of England. Talks about the 7 new frigates.
Protests in London against the visit.
- Aug 78 £500 million frigate deal lost to Blohm und Voss of West Germany. Reasons reported as the situation in the Falkland Islands, the human rights record and protests in London and anger by the junta at the reception Massera had received in London.
- Sep 78 US military exports etc to Argentina now totally cut off. France emerges as the major supplier.
Interest in the British Aerospace Hawk ground attack aircraft and 748 transport aircraft.
2 Lynx helicopters delivered for installation on Type 42 frigate.
- Dec 78 David Owen, then Foreign Secretary, invites Argentinian Air Force Chief Agosti to London for a 'private' visit. Visit postponed and then cancelled by Agosti for "his own reasons".
Argentina expresses interest in more Lynx helicopters, Hawk aircraft, air-to-air missiles, radar, a destroyer, ammunition and mortars.
- Late 1970s Plessey Ferranti make modifications to Type 42 frigates to provide direct computer-to-computer radio data links and to improve control of the carrier-based aircraft.
- 1979 Order for 8 more Lynx helicopters, of which at least 4 have been delivered.
- Jan 79 Hopes of sub-contract work on the West German built frigates for Rolls-Royce (Olympus engines), David Brown (gear boxes), and Hawker Siddeley (engine room controls).
- Feb 79 Sale of Decca Clearscan radar for fast patrol boats.
- Mar 79 Diplomatic relations restored.
- Jun 79 Spanish dockers union prevents export from Spain of 6000 missiles for Argentina.
- Jul 79 Redifon sells £750,000 worth of HF and VHF radios for coastal patrol boats.
- Nov 79 Relations are said to improve between Britain and Argentina.
- Jan 80 Gear pumps worth £400,000 ordered from Vickers for the West German built frigates.
- Mar 80 Reports of Soviet rocket technology in Argentina.
- Jun 80 United States seeks better relations with Argentina in the wake of concern about Soviet influence.
- Jul 80 British post graduate student revealed to have been funded by an arms manufacturer, Pilkingtons, to do market research into arms exports to Argentina for Diploma in Management Studies.
- 1981 Delivery of 4 Lynx helicopters
- May 81 President Reagan lifts ban on US arms and military assistance to Argentina.
- Jun 81 Rediffusion Radio sells radio transmitters for naval stations.
Austria sells 57 light tanks.
- Oct 81 Rolls-Royce contracted to supply engines for the Italian built jet trainer aircraft on order.
Announcement of contracts: -special propellor bolts from Doncaster Moorside; £2,500,000 worth of electronic listening systems for Lynx helicopters for Racal-Decca; £500,000 for 250 airspeed indicators from Smiths Industries, for counter insurgency aircraft; over £250,000 for pneumatic controls for Vosper Thornycroft for patrol boats and corvettes



THE ARGENTINE NAVY ALSO HAS:-

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| 4 US submarines | 2 ex-US fast attack patrol craft | 36,000 naval forces |
| 1 ex-US cruiser | 1 landing ship (docks) | 10,000 marines |
| 7 ex-US destroyers | 1 landing ship (tanks) | 3,000 naval air arm forces |
| 2 ex-French corvettes | 1 landing craft vehicles and personnel | 130,000 army forces |
| 7 ex-US patrol boats | 4 medium landing craft | 19,500 air force personnel |
| 3 large patrol craft | 1 tanker | |
| 2 fast attack guns | 1 fleet support ship | |
| 4 fast attack patrol craft | 2 transport ships | |

Also on order were (not from Britain) 6 submarines, 4 destroyers, 6 corvettes.