

3 DE ENERO
1833



MALVINAS ARGENTINA

History of a Usurpation

CAPÍTULO 2 - THE BRITISH OCCUPATION

Illustrated Historical Comic

Presentation

On 3 January 1833, a British naval force compelled the Argentine authorities to leave the Malvinas Islands. The small garrison, clearly outmatched militarily, could not face a superior squadron without causing a massacre.

This chapter recounts the decisive hours of the occupation: the British ultimatum, Commander Jose Maria Pinedo's dilemma, the lowering of the Argentine flag, the departure of the schooner Sarandi, and our country's first diplomatic protests.

The occupation began by force, but it also marked the beginning of an Argentine claim that would never be abandoned.





On 3 January 1833, the inhabitants of Puerto Soledad saw the British squadron approaching. Tension rose immediately: they knew that such a presence did not announce a peaceful visit.



A British officer formally delivered the ultimatum. Great Britain demanded that the Argentine authorities leave the islands and lower their flag.

3 The News Reaches the Argentine Command.



The British demand was communicated to the Argentine authorities in Puerto Soledad. The moment was critical: they had to decide how to respond.



Jose Maria Pinedo gathered his officers to analyse the situation. The decision was dramatic: resist or avoid a useless massacre.



The small Argentine garrison had fewer men and less weaponry than the British squadron. Facing them openly was almost impossible.



The men available in the colony were few and outnumbered. The defence of Puerto Soledad was compromised from the start.



Pinedo weighed the hardest decision: uphold military honour or preserve the lives of his men against a clearly superior enemy.



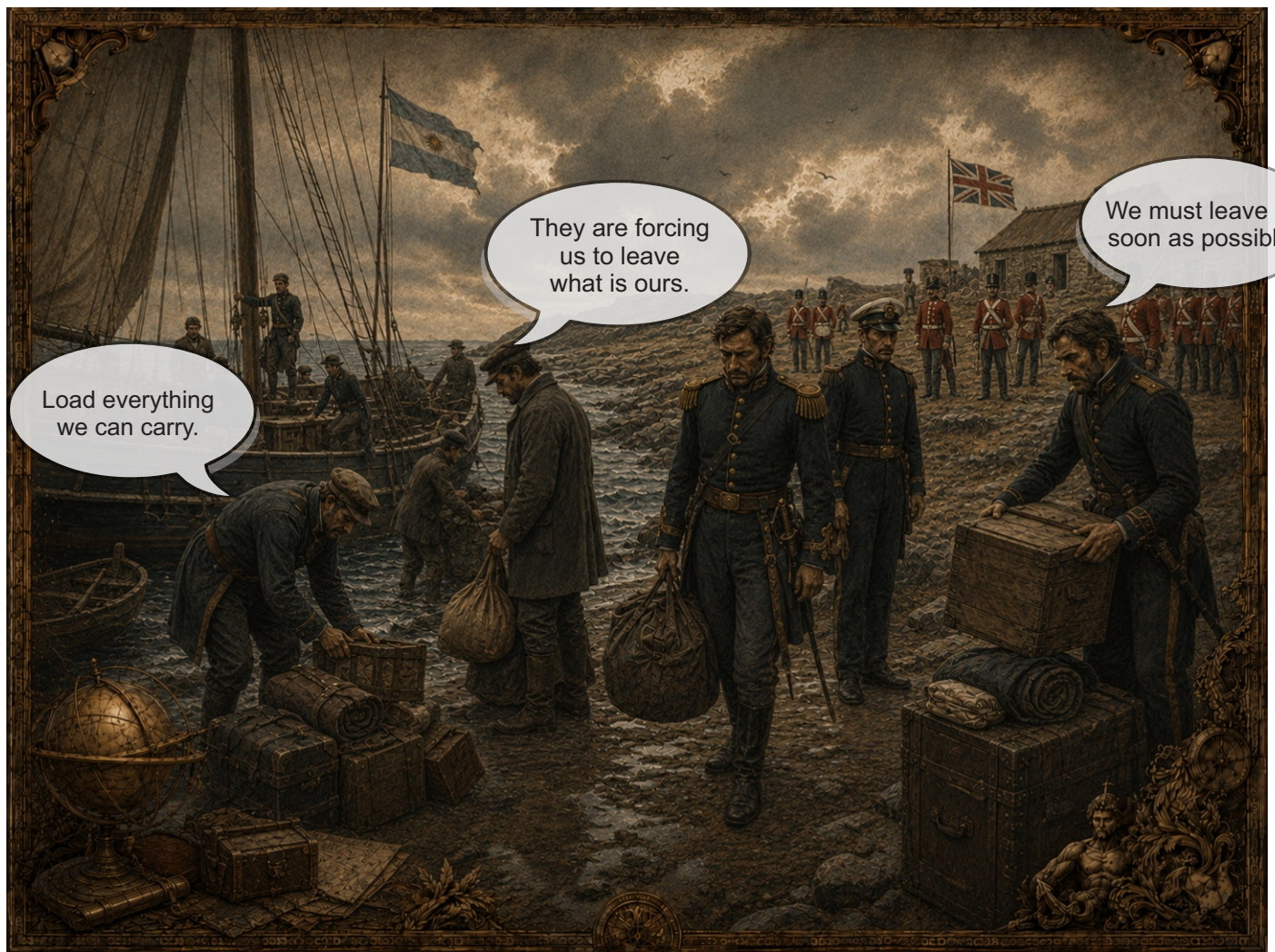
While the command deliberated, the inhabitants of Puerto Soledad waited anxiously. Everyone understood that the fate of the colony was being decided in those hours.



Before the final outcome, the Argentine flag was still flying over Puerto Soledad. It was the last visible symbol of sovereignty on the islands.



Finally, the British flag was raised in Puerto Soledad. The occupation of the Malvinas Islands had been completed by force.



After the occupation, the Argentines began gathering belongings, documents and supplies. The withdrawal was already a done deal.



The population watched sadly as the Argentine authorities left. The silence of the people reflected the magnitude of the loss.



With the British presence established, Puerto Soledad began to fall under a new authority. The occupation became visible in the streets and in everyday life.



The schooner Sarandi slowly moved away from Puerto Soledad. From the deck, the Argentines left the islands behind, but not their right to them.



The return journey was marked by silence and bitterness. Every man knew that he was returning with a defeat imposed by force.



News of the British occupation reached Buenos Aires and caused an uproar in political circles. The event was understood as an affront to national sovereignty.



The occupation of the Malvinas aroused public outrage. In streets and squares, the demand began to gain strength.



The Argentine government formally recorded its protest before Great Britain. From that moment on, the sovereignty claim was officially opened.



Great Britain refused to return the occupied territory. The sovereignty dispute remained open and would continue over time.



The British occupation had just begun, but so too had a historic cause that would endure from generation to generation: Argentina's claim to the **Malvinas**.



TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT CHAPTER: GAUCHO RIVERO AND THE RESISTANCE.