

ESPAÑOL
ENGLISH

THE ANTARCTIC CHILDREN

The first antarctics to be born were argentines



Hope Base. Argentine Republic

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A contribution of the Maritime Museum of Ushuaia
to the construction and cultural diffusion

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Ushuaia- TIERRA DEL FUEGO - ARGENTINA

La Nación Journal: Saturday, November 5, 1977
“WIVES IN ANTARCTICA”

Clarín Journal: Buenos Aires, Monday, November 7, 1977
“ANTARCTICA AND THE FIRST WIVES”

La Razón Journal: 1977

“NOVELTY. Argentinian Families to Live in Antarctica in 1978”

“NOVELTY. A village will be set up with military men, their wives, and children at Esperanza Base ...”

That was the beginning of one of the most challenging journeys in Human History.

The mission involved the settling down of a village with Argentinian families in the Antarctic Continent in order to consolidate our sovereignty project “Caserío San Lorenzo” (San Lorenzo Village) named it Gral Pujato around 1954. Located

on a bay, Esperanza Base was the chosen place where pioneers would set up the “Fortín Sargento Cabral” (Stronghold Sargento Cabral).

In February 1978, the project that had been considered “a utopia” was ready to start the Trial Phase. Eight couples, carefully selected, embarked for an inhospitable and mysterious destination where sacrifice would be their everyday task.

One of those families was the Delgados. My mother, Juana, blindly confident would follow her young husband Néstor in his epic project. By then,

love for that hostile land was already one with the patriotic heart of this military man. He wanted to seal his commitment by carrying with him his third child in her wife's womb.

Then men, women, and children disembarked at their new home, where the smell of remoteness permeated every corner. The fear of the unknown shrunk their hearts and the instinct of survival invaded their minds. Meanwhile, alien to all of this, my body was turning into a baby girl.



María de las Nieves Delgado

On several occasions, our neighbors rushed in false alarm for my expected arrival. It was on Saturday, May 27 that the delivery became imminent. It was clear that, even amidst the blowing storm and the harsh weather, they needed to reach the infirmary located at the basement of the main building. Dr. Carlos Galceran, his wife Zulma Kiriasi and my father assisted with the miraculous event. Doctor and father together gave the news. At 7:05 p.m., my lungs exhaled for the first time and I rushed to cry for the first time. Outside, wind was blowing at 150 km (90 miles) per hour and temperature dropping to -10 °C (14 °F).

The first Argentine Antarctic woman was born at Hope base

On the day after, military authorities gave the news: “Yesterday, at 7:05 p.m., Mrs. Juana Pabla Benítez, the wife of Sergeant Néstor Arturo Delgado, gave birth to baby Marisa de las Nieves, weighting 3.420 kg (7.5 pounds) in Fortín Sargento Cabral, at Esperanza Base, in Argentine Antarctica. Both mother and daughter are perfectly healthy.”

During the days and months that followed, mail from every corner of the country and the world with greetings and congratulations arrived. The radio, as well as radio amateurs, were also important in spreading the news. Everybody took part in spreading the news and this helped with the experience of the harsh winter months.

The campaign ending, everybody went back to the continent. For me, on the contrary, it was leaving my homeland. I was ignorant of the fact that my coming back would involve a new crusade.

Who was the first person born in the Argentine Antarctic?

It must not have been easy for María Silvia Morello to have her fourth child at a scientific station in Antarctica. The truth is that Emilio Marcos Palma made history, the first to be born in Antarctica and, at the same time, it was the

southernmost birth in the world, according to the Guinness Book of Records. He was born on January 7, 1978, weighing 3.4kg, at Fortín Sargento Cabral, at the Esperanza Base, near the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. His father, Jorge Emilio Palma, was a lieutenant colonel in the Argentine Army (or captain) and head of the Argentine Army detachment at the base.

The third of the eight Antarctic Argentines who were born at the Esperanza Base between 1978 and 1980 was **Rubén Eduardo De Carli**. He was born on



De Carli family

September 21, 1979. Today he lives in Buenos Aires. The delivery occurred at the house of the doctors on the Esperanza base.

His parents arrived in Antarctica in December 1978. Eduardo Francisco De Carli, a 26-year-old member of the army, traveled to set up the LRA

36 Radio Arcángel San Gabriel station of Radio Nacional and his mother, María Rosario Cúccaro, 22, was selected to work as a kindergarten teacher.

Francisco Javier Sosa. Born October 11, 1979. Cook. Jacksonville, Florida. Married with two children 11 and 21 years old. My 16 year-old daughter lives in Argentina. Resident in the United States

I have some photos in Argentina, paper clippings, and some photos here. Having been born in Antarctica meant a lot because it is unique. My parents told me many things about my birth and their experience in Antarctica.. Labor was difficult for my mother as it took her 2 hours and 45 minutes to give birth to me.

My father was a cook and my mother a professor of Antarctic history.

My feelings have evolved with the passing of time. It was a unique experience.

My feelings changed in the sense that I was not able to visit the place where I was born.

Silvia Analía Arnouil, was born on January 14, 1980, at 12:05. She is the daughter of Assistant Petty Officer (FA) Oscar Arnouil and Mrs. Silvia de Arnouil.

The birth is by normal delivery, the mother and daughter were assisted by doctors Rubén and Mabel Pariggi.

José Manuel Valladares Solís

A fire at Base Esperanza was the reason for the trip my parents made in January 1980... It was an inspection visit... My father, Colonel José Eduardo Antonio Valladares, together with other authorities, went to investigate the causes of the fire and to airlift the necessary supplies to the base...



*Dra Pariggi, Teresita Solís,
Cnl Valladares and Juan Manuel*

With the medical authorization, the desire and the insistence of my mother, Teresita Solís de Valladares, my father accepted and they included my mother in the entourage.

After the fire, they had been able to rescue only part of the medical equipment and had transferred it to the house of Dr. Pariggi, who says that they had to adapt a nebulizer to turn it into a surgical aspirator and "instruct" some other members of the basis for them to act as nurses and assistants...

I was born on January 24, 1980

They didn't have clothes or diapers for me, since they didn't expect me!! There was no where to get them either!! They told me that my first coat was the helicopter pilot's jacket!!

Today, at 43 years old, expecting my second child, thinking about the details of my birth makes me very emotional! ...I agree with the opinion of the Japanese journalist Eiji Roppongi, who interviewed me in 2003 and stated that my birth "...was my destiny...that I was born there, not because of a political interest in

Argentina...Not because my parents chose the place... If not because God wanted it that way!...”



*24 January 1980. Visit Hope Base
photo:Valladares family*

Lucas Daniel Posse, was born on February 4,1980. Son of Mrs. María Rosa Dominguez de Posse and First Sargeant mechanic of fixed equipment Marcelo David Posse.

María Sol Cosenza, Born: 1983. Bachelor in Social Communication, married with no children. Resident in Mexico City, Mexico.

I am proud of having been born in a magic land, as I see it, and it makes me feel special.

I was retold certain facts, but I know there are many underlying anecdotes and events that make up and describe that great experience. My father went to Antarctica on his own in 1981 and he returned married with a daughter in 1984. He was assigned to Esperanza Base for three years in a row, he married my mother (she stayed for two years in Antarctica 1982 and 1983). I was gestated and born there and I lived there until 6 months old.

Base Esperanza was inaugurated in 1952 by General Edgar Leal, with the premise of building a town inhabited by families that would consolidate the sovereign rights of Argentina over its Antarctic territory, with an independent home for each member of the crew who is accompanied by their family.