

Corps of Royal Engineers Falkland Islands May-June 1982



The memorial plaque above is located in St. Barbara's Church, Maxwell Road, Brompton, Gillingham, Kent, which is the Garrison Church of the Corps of Royal Engineers. Located on Sappers Hill, Falkland Islands is a memorial to the following men that has a bronze panel attached which is a replica of that in St. Barbara's Church.



Roll of Honour

GALLAGHER, LAWRENCE. BEM. Warrant Officer Class 2, 23860354.

22 Special Air Service Regiment.

Died Wednesday 19 May 1982. Aged 37.

Born 30 April 1945.

Commemorated on the Armed Forces Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the rolls of honour in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, also at the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden, Hollywood, County Down, Northern Ireland.

Lawrence, who was known by all as "Lofty," joined the 22 Special Air Service Regiment from 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers in January 1968, serving with 17(Boat) Troop. In the early 1970's he was detached to the 10th Special Forces Group at Bad Tölz, Wolfratshausen, Upper, Bavaria, Germany. He was one of the twenty men from the Special Air Service and attached arms, who tragically lost their lives in a Sea King helicopter which crashed to the North East of Falklands, while moving Special Air Service personnel and others from H.M.S. Hermes to the assault ship H.M.S. Intrepid. 21 out of the 30 men on board the Sea King died, and at the time of the tragedy a sea bird strike was thought to have brought the helicopter down, but this cause is now open to doubt. The dead included 18 men of D and G Squadrons, Special Air Service.



PRESCOTT, JAMES. CGM (Navy). Staff Sergeant, 23834301.

33 Engineer Regiment, (Engineer Explosives Disposal), Royal Engineers.

Died Sunday 23 May 1982. Aged 37.

Born Hindley, Wigan, Lancashire 24 February 1945.

Commemorated on the Armed Forces Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the rolls of honour in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, also at the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden, Hollywood, County Down, Northern Ireland.

On 22 May 1982 James under the command of Warrant Officer (later Captain) John Phillips, of 49 Engineer (Explosives Disposal Squadron), Royal Engineers, and they were carrying out explosive ordnance disposal duties in the Falkland Islands, and who were the only bomb disposal officers that were dispatched with the task force when Falklands Conflict broke out. They were tasked to deal with an unexploded bomb in the boiler room of the Type 21 frigate H.M.S. Argonaut. Another unexploded bomb lay in a flooded missile magazine nearby. Working in extraordinarily cramped conditions and in very unfamiliar surroundings. James and John successfully remotely rendered safe the bomb which was later removed from the ship. This action enabled the damage to the boiler room to be repaired, so that H.M.S. Argonaut regained propulsion and was able to manoeuvre defensively in further air attacks. On 23 May 1982 James and John were tasked to neutralize two unexploded bombs in Type 21 frigate H.M.S. Antelope. The first bomb examined could not be approached until extensive clearance of debris had taken place. They therefore set about rendering safe the second bomb which was situated near the centre of the ship. The bomb had been slightly damaged and was assessed as being in a dangerous condition. The pair tried three times to render the bomb safe using a remote method, having to approach the bomb after each attempt to adjust the equipment, but on each occasion, the fuse could not be withdrawn. After a fourth attempt, which involved using a small charge, the bomb unexpectedly exploded when James and John were thirty feet away from it, instantly killing James. John was blown up and badly injured losing an arm in the explosion. James was later posthumously

awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, which was the last ever CGM ever to be awarded, and the only one awarded during the Falklands Conflict. After serving for more than 31 years in Army, John Phillips retired a Captain, having been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism dealing with the unexploded bombs on the ships during the Falklands Conflict. Although James and John were both serving soldiers at the time of winning their awards in May 1982, they were awarded naval decorations because they were working on ships at the time of their actions.



McILVENNY, ANDREW GEORGE (Mac), Corporal, 24209183.
3 Troop, 20 Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers.
Died Tuesday 8 June 1982. Aged 27.
Born Gillingham, Kent 2 October 1954.

Commemorated on the Armed Forces Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the rolls of honour in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, also at the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden, Hollywood, County Down, Northern Ireland. Andrew also has a private memorial dedicated to his memory at Gillingham, Kent.

Andrew was temporarily attached to 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers when he was killed during the air attack on the LSL (Landing Ship Logistic) Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Sir Galahad, by Argentine aircraft at Fitzroy Cove. When Andrew lost his life he was being transported on Sir Galahad to provide engineering support following the landings. On Friday 25 June 1982 the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Sir Galahad was towed out to sea and following a brief service she scuttled and designated as a war grave.



MELIA, MICHAEL, Corporal, 24196164.
59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers.
Died Friday 28 May 1982. Aged 30.
Born Oldham, Lancashire 21 September 1951.
Son of the late William and Kitty Melia.
Husband of Gill Melia (née Sandy).
Buried Western Mill Cemetery, Ferndale Road, Plymouth, Devon.
Grave Ref: Section C. Grave 18315.

In addition to the national memorials which commemorated Michael, the memorial shown above was constructed solely for his remembrance. Michael was killed in action at Goose Green, and fought alongside "A" Company, 2 Battalion, Parachute Regiment to re-take Darwin Hill. Initially Michael was buried at Ajax Bay on 30 May 1982. Following a funeral with full military honours, he was re-interred at the Weston Park Cemetery, Plymouth. Prior to joining the army as a regular soldier, "Mick" had been a member of the Territorial Army, serving in the 75 Engineer Regiment (202 Field Squadron (V) T+AVR).



WILSON, SCOTT, Corporal, 24317228.
9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers.
Died Friday 11 June 1982. Aged 25.

Born Abadan, Iran 3 March 1957.

Buried Edinburgh, Scotland.

Commemorated on the Armed Forces Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the rolls of honour in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, also at the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden, Hollywood, County Down, Northern Ireland.

Scott, who was known by all and sundry by his nickname "Scotty", was killed in action on Mount Longdon whilst attached to the 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment. By a sad twist of fate or call it what you will, Scott's brother in law, Corporal Keith "Ginge" McCarthy of the 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, also fell during the same battle on the same day.

PASHLEY, JOHN BROWN. Lance Corporal, 24428063.

9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Died Sunday 13 June 1982. Aged 22.

Born Sheffield, Yorkshire 5 November 1959.

Commemorated on the Armed Forces Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the rolls of honour in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, also at the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden, Hollywood, County Down, Northern Ireland.

John was killed in action on Mount Tumbledown on the night of 13/14 June 1982 whilst on attachment to the Scots Guards. British casualties were 9 dead and 43 wounded; Argentina lost 30 dead, and 30 of their men were taken prisoner of war during the action. The year prior to his death, John was a member of the Permanent Training Staff at 1 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, based at Gibraltar Barracks, Camberley, Surrey.

GANDHI, PRADEEP KUMAR. Sapper, 24385786

59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Attached to No. 45 Commando, Royal Marines.

Died Thursday 27 May 1982. Aged 24

Born Nairobi, Kenya, 24 February 1958. Enlisted Wembley, London.

Cremated Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London.

Starting on the morning of Thursday 27 May, and commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Whitehead, No. 45 Commando, Royal Marines, first moved by LCU (Landing Craft Utility) from Ajax Bay to Port San Carlos before setting out the twelve miles to New House, reaching there late that same night. Although there were few Argentine aircraft attacks between that time and the second week in June, they nevertheless chose Thursday afternoon for their first strike against land targets, when two pairs of Gruppo 5 Skyhawk aircraft bombed and strafed troop and supply positions. Coming in over the Brigade Maintenance Area at Ajax Bay, one pair killed six men of No. 45 Commando, Royal Marines and of the Commando Logistics Regiment, Royal Marines wounded others and landed unexploded bombs near the Field Dressing Station, where Flight Lieutenant Swan later slept beside the bombs to reassure the staff and patients. The second pair hit San Carlos and killed Pradeep, and a man from 40 Commando, Royal

Marines. During the Argentine attacks, one of their Skyhawk's was hit by 40mm Bofor anti-aircraft fire from H.M.S. Fearless and/or H.M.S. Intrepid, and crashed over West Falkland near Port Howard.



JONES, CHRISTOPHER. Sapper, 24484389.

59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Died Saturday 12 June 1982. Aged 19.

Born Cinderford, Gloucestershire 21 August 1962.

Son of Stanley and Evelyn Jones of Cinderford, Gloucestershire.

Buried Yew Tree Break Cemetery, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.

Grave Ref: Section J. Row J. Grave J.

Christopher was educated locally at St. Anthony's School from 1966 to 1973, then moving on to the Double View Secondary School until 1978. A keen Cub Scout at junior school, and then later on instead of becoming a Scout he joined the Army Cadet Force. A keen sportsman, he representing his school at rugby, cricket and cross-country. He also liked fishing and swimming, and played cricket for a local club. On the completion of his civilian education, his full-time army service began in September 1978 at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow. From there he went to the Corps of Royal Engineers at Chatham, volunteered for Commando training with the Royal Marines, gained his green beret without any problems, and was posted to 59 Independent Commando Squadron in Plymouth. Christopher was killed by mortar fire at Two Sisters, whilst attached to No. 45 Commando, Royal Marines. Please also note brief additional details appertaining to No. 45 Commando, Royal Marines, at the brief commemoration of Sapper Pradeep Gandhi. Christopher's body was evacuated from the battlefield and temporarily interred at Teal Inlet. In November 1982, at the request of his parents his remains were brought home to Cinderford, Gloucestershire, where he was laid to rest near his family home.



TARBARD, WAYNE DAVID. Sapper, 24529017.

3 Troop, 20 Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers.

Died Tuesday 8 June 1982.

Born Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire 6 January 1963.

Son of David and Jocelyn Tarbard.

Commemorated on the Armed Forces Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the rolls of honour in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, also at the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden, Hollywood, County Down, Northern Ireland.

Wayne was temporarily attached to 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers when he was killed during the air attack on the LSL (Landing Ship Logistic) Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Sir Galahad, by Argentine aircraft at Fitzroy Cove. When Wayne lost his life he was being transported on Sir Galahad to provide engineering support following the landings. Aged sixteen and a half, Wayne enlisted in the army as an Apprentice, and was posted to the Apprentice College at Chepstow, Monmouthshire. On the completion of his training Wayne qualified as an Engineer and was posted to Maidstone, Kent to the 36 Royal Engineers Regiment. In his remembrance of Wayne, his family have funded a Rose Bowl which is called The Tarbard Rose Bowl, and it is presented annually to the top Sapper on the Cadre course at 36 Engineer Regiment, Maidstone, Kent. A member of Wayne's family has under taken this presentation since it's inauguration in 1983. Wayne's South Atlantic Medal can be seen in the Royal Engineers Museum, Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent.



The above memorial which was erected in memory of the casualties briefly commemorated above, was erected somewhat appropriately on the 453 foot high Sapper Hill which is on East Falkland, Falkland Islands. It is situated just to the south of the town of Stanley the Falklands capital. During the Falklands Conflict of 1982, "A" and "C" Companies of No.40 Commando Royal Marines, under the command of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, captured Sapper Hill almost without conflict, just before the Argentine surrender by General Mario Menéndez at 2359 hours on Monday 14 June 1982.

