

Five varieties of Membership:

- (a) **FULL MEMBERSHIP** will be reserved for those in possession of the South Atlantic Medal (1982). The subsidised fee, payable on joining, is £10. Full members have voting rights on any issue connected with the affairs of SAMA82.
- (b) **SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP** will be granted on application (and without payment of fee) to the next of kin of those who died in the South Atlantic Campaign. These first 255 Membership numbers are allocated – and sacrosanct.
- (c) **ISLAND MEMBERSHIP** has been secured for all Falkland Islanders.
- (d) **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP** may be conferred by SAMA82's Executive on any individual who has been of great assistance in the management of SAMA's affairs. It may also from time to time be conferred on distinguished individuals who had a particular influence on the conduct or outcome of the South Atlantic campaign of 1982.
- (a) **AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to those with a special affection for the Islands and/or commitment to SAMA82's aims. The lifetime fee is £50, payable on joining.



SAMA82's key staff and advisers

Front row (left to right): Dr Rick Jolly OBE (Chairman); Denzil Connick (Secretary); Lt Col Tony Davies MBE (Treasurer).

Back row: Maj Gen Julian Thompson CB OBE; Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike KCB DSO MBE; Mrs Sara Jones CBE JP; Lt Col Simon Brewis MBE.

Not shown: Capt Michael Clapp CB; Robert Fox MBE; Air Marshal Sir Peter Squire KCB DFC AFC.

The main purposes of SAMA82 are simply stated. We intend to maintain and promote a sense of pride and comradeship among all veterans of the South Atlantic campaign, and to keep them in touch with each other in a manner which respects both individual privacy and personal requirements. We also want to establish and maintain contact with other organisations involved in the welfare of the armed forces, and ensure that due consideration is given to the interests of South Atlantic veterans. SAMA82 will also investigate for consideration, by an appropriate organisation, any case of hardship or distress amongst South Atlantic veterans in which direct financial assistance is sought or recommended.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly for the majority of SAMA82's members, we desire most strongly to re-establish and strengthen links with the people of the Falkland Islands.



*From
the Sea-
Freedom*

SAMA

The South Atlantic Medal Association (1982)

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SAMA82 began its existence on April 2nd 1997, the fifteenth anniversary of the uninvited arrival of Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands. Soon afterwards, a task force was assembled in Great Britain and dispatched to the South Atlantic in order to restore Her Majesty's Sovereignty. On June 14 1982, Major General Jeremy Moore was able to announce to the world that the Falkland Islanders were once again living under the Government of their choice. Seventy four days of occupancy had elapsed.

Since those heady days 15 years ago many things have changed. The Islanders now have a measure of economic independence, and the geography of the capital, Stanley, has been radically reshaped. There is now a new airport complex, integrated with the garrison which continues to defend the Falklands against any aggressor. But most of the Task Force members also had their lives altered. Just under 780 were wounded, with injuries ranging from minor shrapnel scratches, through disfiguring burns, to amputation and loss of a limb or limbs.

Even those who were not wounded physically found that they had changed on their return home. A few were suffering from the cluster of severe symptoms known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; others merely had disturbed dreams. For nearly all veterans of the short but sharp South Atlantic conflict, November 11th's Remembrance Sunday now became an intense emotional experience, along with feelings of sadness and loss on specific anniversaries such as the land battles of Goose Green, Mount Harriet, Tumbledown, Two Sisters, Wireless Ridge and Mount Longdon – or the death in action of a friend and comrade elsewhere, perhaps at sea, or closer to shore at Fitzroy Cove, or in the Battle of San Carlos Water. Three Falkland Islanders also died in the fighting; two hundred and fifty two members of the Task Force did not return to their homes...



WO1 Laurie Ashbridge (RSM of 3 Para and SAMA 82 member), enjoys a welcoming cup of tea on the morning of Friday May 21st 1982 with some young residents of San Carlos settlement.

All these people are united in one thing. They, or their next-of-kin, received from Her Majesty's Government the South Atlantic Medal. It was awarded to all personnel who took part in operations in the South Atlantic for the liberation of South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. To qualify, the recipient had to have at least one full day's service in the Falkland Islands or South Georgia, or thirty days in the South Atlantic operational zone, including Ascension Island. Additionally, those who qualified under the first condition were awarded a rosette to wear on the medal ribbon.

What is perhaps surprising is that nearly 30,000 of these medals were awarded, underpinning the Government's seriousness in terms of generating the forces needed to carry out the difficult task of dislodging the Argentine invaders. The breakdown of medal awards was: Royal Navy 13,000; Royal Marines 3,700; Royal Fleet Auxiliary 2,000; Army 7,000; Royal Air Force 2,000 and Merchant Navy/Civilian 2,000.