

Falklands Award – John Phillips, DSC.

Nominated by:



John Phillips was a Royal Engineer Bomb Disposal Officer in 1982 in the rank of Warrant Officer. During the early part of the conflict in San Carlos water he was tasked to go to HMS Antelope which had been hit by a 1000lb bomb which had not exploded and was lodged in the ship. He went on board accompanied by his assistant, SSgt Jim Prescott, and proceeded to work to attempt to defuse the bomb. During the course of their work the bomb exploded, killing SSgt Prescott immediately and seriously injuring John.

He subsequently had his left arm amputated at the shoulder. He was casevaced back to the UK and in due course continued his Army service, where he was commissioned and eventually retired in the rank of Major.

He was an early member of SAMA, joining when it was formed in 1997 and has been heavily involved ever since. He has served in many committee positions and was Vice Chairman of Trustees and Chairman of the management committee for a number of years. At the age of 70 he stood down from committee work but now continues to edit and be responsible for the publication of our twice yearly newsletter which he has developed into a most attractive 70 page glossy magazine - the subject of many compliments.



An interesting family link is that John's son joined the Royal Engineers and also became a bomb disposal specialist, going on to serve three tours of duty in Afghanistan - during one of these tours he was injured in an IED blast although thankfully not seriously.

To John's great credit he has made it a point to continue to take a great interest in the family of SSgt Prescott.

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