

# WAR STORY



**Brian Green** joined the Royal Marines at the age of 17 and served for 10 years. This included being involved in the Falklands War in 1982.

This is one of his stories:

*The day after the disembarkation day I was deployed in a radio vehicle to the top of Bomb Alley, Fanning Head, to act as an electronic decoy. We were very busy managing the difficult radio traffic. One afternoon I was alone on duty when, for some unknown reason it became quiet. I took the opportunity to make a cup of tea and stretch my legs. While the water was boiling I saw a 'brick' of 4 chaps from 3 Para. 2 Para were miles away so it must have been them. I saw them go to ground about a quarter of a mile away. I could easily make out their red berets.*

*After about 5 minutes I decided to listen in to their 'unit command net', as I had access to their frequency. I caught the tail end of them requesting an artillery strike on my position! I recognized the grid reference. I came up on their net giving my call-sign and explaining that I was the target of the strike. It was apparent that they did not believe that I was the vehicle they could see. I told them that I would go outside and wave at them with my left hand and hold a cup of tea in my right hand - it was a bit of a gamble if they knew their right from left! After I had done this I came back on air and the chap on the radio said "cancel, cancel, cancel" which is only ever used to cancel an ordinance strike. I invited them down for a cuppa, but they walked off.*





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Later that day we were moved to Mount Kent via San Carlos Settlement. On the way we went past the site where HMS Antelope was sinking and I could clearly see the front 20 feet sticking out.



My friend Jon Sharples had been on her when she had been hit. We arrived in the settlement the day after there had been a major fire-fight between the Argies and some British special forces. There were bullet holes in everything and loads of spent cartridges littered the ground. About 2 hours before we got there a bomb had exploded beside a slit trench and killed a chap. All a bit stark.

Although I knew that bad things happen to good people I felt like the Ready Brek kid, surrounded by this amazing glow! In the quiet times I was really aware of God's closeness and also the many prayers of my family back home.

**Brian Green** is CVM's regional co-ordinator for England (South West)

After he left the Royal Marines, he joined Devon and Cornwall Constabulary doing many roles including Armed Response Officer, hostage rescue work and also a number of years as a police sniper. Brian was involved in, or led, over 500 Firearms operations. He was promoted to Sergeant and left when his pension was complete in 2012. Brian is married with two children and a dog called Bob.