

Royal Marines

Corps Memorial Dates

14 June 1982 - Recapture of the Falkland Islands

The Corps was involved in virtually every significant aspect of the South Atlantic campaign starting on the 2 April when Naval Party 8901 opposed the Argentine assault on the Islands. A company group from 42 Cdo RM recaptured South Georgia on 25 April. From 1 May Special Boat Squadron carried out intelligence gathering patrols which were critical to the success of the main amphibious landing in San Carlo water on 21 May. The main landing was planned and executed by 3 Commando Brigade RM (Brigadier J H A Thompson OBE) which deployed at full strength (40, 42, 45 Cdo's RM and Cdo Log Regt RM). RM detachments served in many of the ships of the Task Force and all landing craft where RM manned.

On 30 May Major General J J Moore OBE MC arrived in San Carlos with his Headquarters, based on HQ Cdo Forces RM, and assumed command of all land forces including the Army's newly arrived 5 Inf Bde. 3 Cdo Bde RM continued to bear the brunt of the fighting throughout the campaign commanding 5 of the 6 battalion-scale battles that took place before the surrender of the Argentine forces on the 14 June. The professionalism and resilience of the marines who took part were major factors in the success of this unique amphibious operation conducted at a range of nearly 8,000 miles from the UK mounting base. A total of 3,520 Royal Marines, approximately 50 % of the Corps, took part in this campaign.

Two officers and 25 men were killed in action during the campaign and 67 were wounded. The following honours and awards were subsequently conferred upon Royal Marines: one KCB, one CB, two DSO, six OBE, three MBE, one MBE, one DSC, five MC, two DFC, one DCM, three DSM, ten MM, one DFM and one QGM.
