

Voices of War

Life Stories



John Ivan Baker 1945 - 1982

Falklands, Army, John Ivan Baker, Main, 1945



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Name: John Ivan Baker

Other names/aliases: Joe

Date of Birth: 03.07.1945

Place of birth:

Nationality: British

Date of Death: 05.06.1982

Place of death: Falklands Islands

Burial place & Memorials: San Carlos Cemetery, Falklands Islands

Service No: 1583043

Unit(s): 216 Parachute Squadron, Royal Signals, 3 PARA,
205 Signals Squadron

Rank: Staff Sergeant

Medals and Awards:

Education:

Clubs and Affiliations:

Hashtags: #falklands #para



Life Story

John Ivan Baker was born on 3 July 1945 in Leicestershire. Joining the army in 1966, he became known as 'Joe' and his service included time with 216 Parachute Squadron, Royal Signals. From 1978 to 1980, he served as the Rear Link Detachment Sgt with 3 PARA Signals Platoon in Osnabruck (Quebec Barracks).

Falklands War:

During the Falklands War Joe was under the command of Major Mike Forge the OC of 205 Signals Squadron in the role of technician. Staff Sergeant Christopher Griffin and Lance Corporal Simon Cockton, of 656 Squadron Army Air Corps, had been ordered to fly equipment and personnel to a malfunctioning radio re-broadcast station on top of Pleasant Peak. The station had been established the previous day to provide a communications link between the 5th Infantry Brigade headquarters at Darwin, and the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment at Fitzroy. The crew departed from Goose Green in a Gazelle and collected the replacement equipment from the headquarters at Darwin. SSgt Griffin was the pilot of the Gazelle and LCpl Simon Cockton his observer. They also took on board Maj Mike Forge and SSgt Joe Baker. Sadly, all four were killed in a friendly fire incident when they were mistaken for an Argentine aircraft. Joe was just 36, and a month short of his birthday.



He is buried in San Carlos Cemetery, Falkland Islands.

In 2022 as part of the Falkland Islands 40th Place name project Joe was honoured with at Baker Point a westernmost point of Pleasant Island near Fitzroy farm settlement, East Falkland.



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