



Harold "Harry" Maddison

It is with particular sadness that I record the sudden and untimely death of Harry Maddison. We both served in 216 Para Sig Sqn and began a lifelong friendship in 1966. To cover the many & varied aspects of Harry's life would take many pages, as he had done so much over the years. He was a unique character, a soldier's soldier, and a man's man. He possessed a wonderful sense of humour and always gave 110% of everything he put his mind to.

Harry enlisted in April 1961, joining the Junior Leaders' Regt, R Sigs, at Newton Abbot. On leaving Denbury he volunteered for Airborne Forces, and on successfully passing 'P' Coy, he joined 216 Para Sig Sqn in 1969.

A large, extremely fit young man, during his time with the Sqn he became a regular competitor in the Devizes Canoe Race, and other similar events. His next big challenge was SAS selection and in 1971 he attended, passed, and joined 22 SAS Regt. In his words, "This was the proudest moment of my career." In Hereford he met many of his friends from his days in Aldershot. Harry spent the next ten years with 22 SAS, serving all over the world on operations. His last three years of Army service were spent in Germany with 14 (EW) Sig Regt, and his last six months with 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V) at Thorney Island. Harry was discharged in Sep 1984 as WO2.

He dabbled in security for a while, and then became an instructor at West Buckland School in Barnstaple, Devon. Later he was a Postman for a brief period, but eventually he came home and to work as a civilian in the Diving Cell at 22 SAS. Once again he was among old friends and comrades.

Harry died suddenly on 1st Feb 1999. His funeral service was held in Belmont Abbey, Hereford. The Abbey was packed, with standing room only for the several hundred friends and comrades, who had come to say their final farewells.

Our sympathies go to his wife Deanna, and their children, Chloe and Peter.

The photograph above is Harry as I best remember him, with a smile on his face, making a brew.

(Extract from The Wire magazine, 1999, author unknown; edited by Richard Hamilton, 2012)