

MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET  
MARINE CADET SECTION

# SEA CADET TRAINING CENTRE HMS EXCELLENT



## ROYAL MARINES HISTORY AND TRADITIONAL FACTS PRECIS PACK

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Colour Sergeant (SCC) G D Robinson</b>
<b>Document ID:</b>	<b>Royal Marines History &amp; Traditional Facts</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>V2.0</b>
<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

**MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET  
MARINE CADET SECTION**

**CONTENT**

Content	Page 2 to 3
Introduction	Page 4
Historical Reasons for the Formation of the Corps	Page 5 to 6
Extent of the Corps Service Throughout the World from 1664 to the Present Day	Page 7 to 8
Present Day Strategic Role of the Corps and its Organisation	Page 9 to 45
Corps History	
1664 – 1764	Page 46 to 48
1765 – 1899	Page 48 to 52
1900 – 1938	Page 52 to 58
1939 – 1945	Page 59 to 62
1946 – 1970	Page 62 to 64
1970 – Present date	Page 64 to 68
A Brief Chronology of Principle Events	Page 69 to 76
Corps Memorable Dates	Page 77 to 83
The Colours	Page 84 to 86
Badge and Corps Motto	Page 87 to 88
Victoria Cross Medal Holders of the Royal Marines	Page 89 to 95
Regimental Music	Page 96
The Kings Squad	Page 97
Lanyards	Page 98
Freedoms	Page 98 to 99
Associations with Livery Companies	Page 99 to 100

**MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET  
MARINE CADET SECTION**

**CONTENT**

Traditions and Facts	Page 101 to 102
Associations with Other Marine Corps and Regiments	Page 102
The Royal Marines Prayer & The Marine Cadet Promise	Page 102 to 103
Honorary Appointments and the Commandant General	Page 103
Regimental Badges and the Green Beret	Page 104 to 105
Hannah Snell	Page 106 to 108
The Cockleshell Heroes – Operation Frankton	Page 108
The History of the Sea Cadet Corps	Page 109 to 111

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### INTRODUCTION

The Esprit de Corps and pride of the regiment are built upon its past history and achievements, and its present efficiency and discipline. History and tradition help us to give cadets a standard to aim for and pass.

The existence of a 'Marine Corps' is often a clear sign that a nation is or was a strong naval power with colonial interests. The idea of having soldiers on board ships is far from a modern idea.

At some unrecorded place centuries ago, a warrior stood up in a boat and prepared to go ashore to join the battle. No ancient scribe was present to set down whether the man won or lost, lived or died, and yet as he ran through the surf toward the unnamed shore, primitively armed and equipped, he was blazing a trail that thousands would follow in the ages to come. As early as 500 BC the Greeks were using Epibatae, a term roughly translated meaning 'heavily armed sea soldiers'. The Romans had sea going soldiers in their fleets, the Vikings, who came from the sea to raid other lands and in more recent times the Spanish, who conquered South America and maintained her colonies there. By the most basic definition these men were marines.

As Britain attained more colonies so did her dependency on a strong Fleet to defend and maintain them grow. A need developed to have specially trained soldiers for permanent sea duty rather than embark infantry regiments of the British Army. So there evolved the sea soldiers, who, being both soldiers and sailors, could fight equally well either on land or at sea. It was obvious that small wars were likely to break out all over the world and if not stopped rapidly they could easily spread. Over and over again in their hundred-year history the Royal Marines have proved their worth either as a spearhead of some amphibious operation or as a rearguard covering the withdrawal of the Army.

From boarding parties in the Second Dutch War in 1664 to the action in the Falkland Islands in 1982 is a long haul. Who knows what will come next? But whatever it may be, it will be handled well by these superb Sea Soldiers.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## HISTORICAL REASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF THE CORPS

King Charles II, acting on advice from his commanders, decided to commission a regiment of sharp shooters to be deployed aboard Royal Navy vessels, to pick off enemy sailors manning heavy guns in a battle, thus disabling the enemy attacking capability, and allowing the Royal Navy to have an advantage. His Majesty the King, made a proclamation in Whitehall, to raise the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot. Below is the exact wording of the Convening Order, which was made on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1664, which we now recognise and celebrate as the Birth of the Corps. The regiment was raised mainly from the Trained Bands of the City of London.

The Convening Order

At The Court of Whitehall the 28<sup>th</sup> October 1664

Present

The Kings Most Excellent Majesty's

His Royal Highness ye Duke of York  
Lord Chancellor  
Lord Treasurer  
Duke of Albemarle  
Duke of Ormond  
Earle of Anglesey  
Earle of Lauderdale

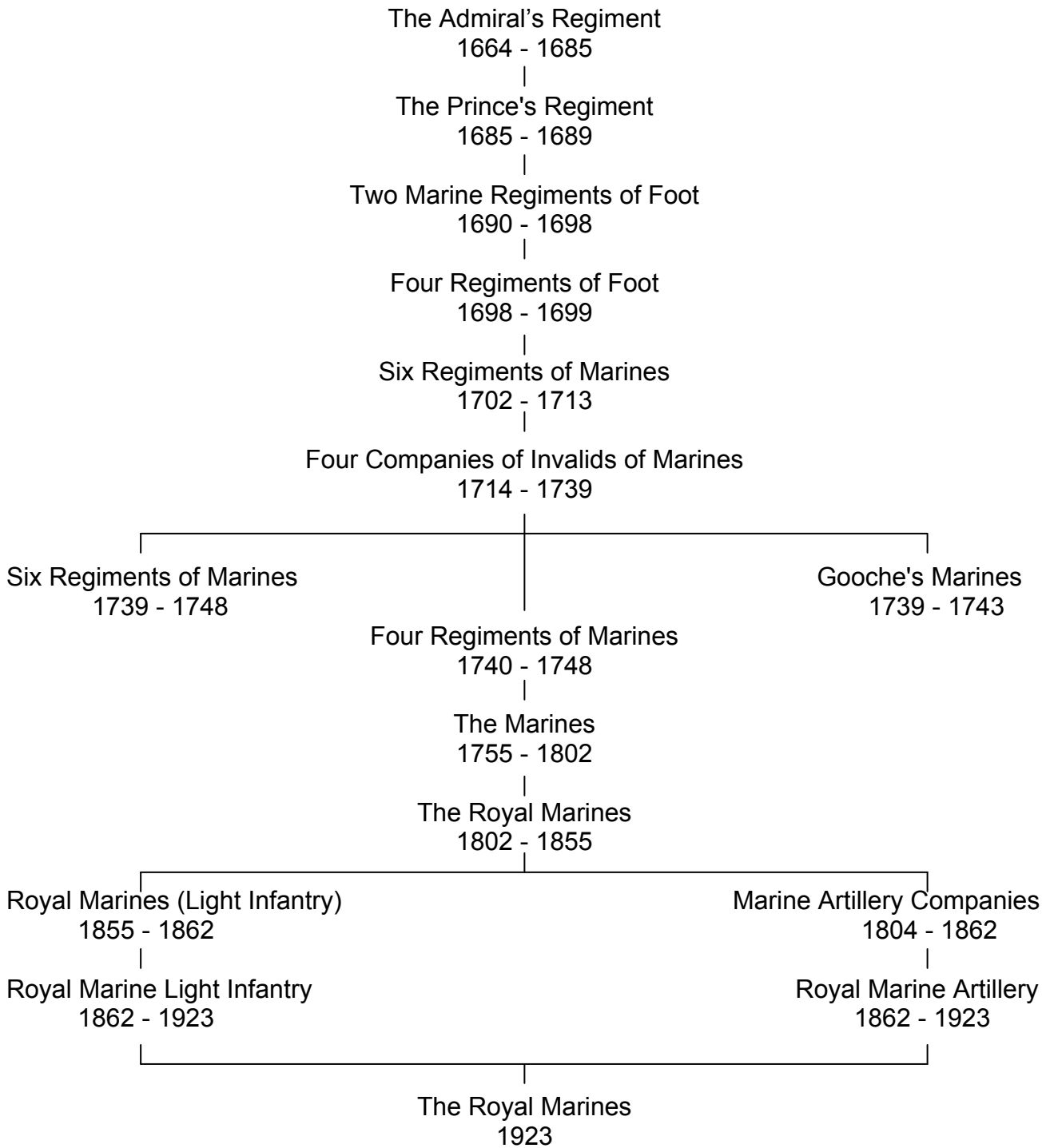
Earle of Middleton  
Lord Bishop of London  
Lord Ashley  
Mr Vice Chamberlain  
Mr Secretary Morice  
Mr Chancellor of ye Duchy  
Sir Edward Nicholas

"Upon a Report from the Lords the Committee for the Affairs of His Majesty's Navy Royal and Admiralty of this Kingdome this read at the Board, His Majesty was pleased to Order and direct that twelve hundred Land Soldiers be forthwith raised in readiness to be distributed to his Majesty's Fleets prepared for Sea Service, which said twelve hundred men are to be put under One Colonel, One Lieutenant Colonel and One Sergeant Major and to be divided into Six Companies. Each Company to consist of two hundred Soldiers; and to have one Captain, One Lieutenant, One Ensign, One Drummer, Four Sergeants and Four Corporals, and all the Soldiers aforesaid to be armed with good Firelocks. All which Arms, Drums and Colours are forthwith to be prepared and furnished out of His Majesty's stores. The care of all which is recommended to the Duke of Albermarle his Grace Lord of His Majesty's Forces.



# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## THE ROYAL MARINES GENEALOGICAL TREE



# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### EXTENT OF THE CORPS SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FROM 1664 TO THE PRESENT DAY

On the 28th October 1664 an Order-in-Council was issued calling for 1200 soldiers to be recruited for service in the Fleet, to be known as the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot. As the Duke of York was The Lord High Admiral, it became known as the Admiral's Regiment. The Regiment was paid by the Admiralty, it and its successors being the only long service troops in the 17th and 18th century navy.

They were therefore not only soldiers but also seamen, who were part of the complement of all warships. In 1704, during the war with France and Spain, the British attacked the Rock of Gibraltar: 1,900 British and 400 Dutch marines prevented Spanish reinforcements reaching the fortress. Later, British ships bombarded the city while marines and seamen stormed the defences. These later withstood nine months of siege. Today the Royal Marines display only the battle honour "Gibraltar", and their close relationship with the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps continues.

Throughout the 18th and 19th century the Corps played a major part in fighting to win Britain the largest empire ever created. Marines were aboard the first ships to arrive in Australia in 1788. The policy of "Imperial Policing" took the Marines to the bombardment of Algiers in 1816, to the Ashantee Wars, and to the destruction of the Turkish Fleet at Navarino in 1827.

In 1805 some 2700 Royal Marines took part in the great victory at Trafalgar. Closer to home, they maintained civil order in Northern Ireland and in Newcastle during the coal dispute of 1831. By the outbreak of war in 1914, Britain had the largest fleet in commission in the world, with all ships above that of destroyer size having Royal Marines detachments. Onboard ship, marines were required to operate one of the main gun turrets, as well as secondary armament. Royal Marines also fought on land, notably in the amphibious assault at Gallipoli in 1915, together with ANZAC forces, and led the famous assault on the harbour at Zeebrugge in 1918.

During World War Two some 80,000 men served in the Royal Marines, and they continued to operate at sea and in land formations, but 1942 saw the formation of the first Royal Marines Commandos. 5 RM Commandos were amongst the first to land on D Day, and two thirds of all the landing craft involved were crewed by Royal Marines. 16,000 members of the Corps took part in Operation "Overlord" in many roles, some even manning tanks.

After the war the Royal Marines spent much time in action in the Far East, including involvement in the Malayan emergency and in Borneo, and also in Korea, Suez, Aden, and Cyprus.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION



In 1982, the Royal Marines played a major part in recapturing the Falkland Islands from the Argentinians, and in 1991 they participated in the Gulf War, mounting a sizeable humanitarian task force – Operation HAVEN, in support of the Kurdish people of Northern Iraq.

This was the start of a particularly busy decade for the Royal Marines. In 1994 a commando unit flew to Kuwait following threats by Iraq. The next year the Royal Marines provided the commander and staff for the Rapid Reaction Force in Bosnia, and in 1997 and 1998 a Commando Unit flew to the Congo Republic to protect British interests.

In the same period help was provided to the local populations of Montserrat in the West Indies following a volcano eruption, and in Central America following a hurricane. The last two years have seen elements of the Royal Marines on operations in Northern Ireland (where they have completed some 39 tours of duty since 1969), Kosovo, and Sierra Leone.

In addition, while few ships now have the traditional RM detachment aboard, Royal Marines Protection Parties join ships as necessary, and have served in such diverse places as Albania, and East Timor, where they worked closely with Australian forces.

With the introduction and successful operational deployment of the Landing Platform (Helicopter), HMS OCEAN, and the launch of HMS BULWARK and HMS ALBION, as successors to the in-service Landing Platform (Dock) the amphibious capability of the Royal Marines is greatly increased, and becomes a key element in the country's capacity to intervene in areas of conflict overseas. This was proven by the ability of 40 Commando RM to remain in the Gulf area following exercises in Oman during October 2001, available to participate in the war in Afghanistan when needed. With further additions to the amphibious fleet, and a wide range of new equipment coming into service, the Royal Marines are as ready as ever to meet the nation's need for a flexible force that can poise at sea, and intervene in areas of trouble at an early stage.





# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### PRESENT DAY STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE CORPS AND ITS ORGANISATION

The Royal Marines are the UK's 'go anywhere' amphibious forces and a key component of the government's Rapid Reaction Force. As such, they are required to be trained to work in different terrains and environments, from the cold, mountainous conditions in Northern Europe, to the hot arid regions of the Middle East and Africa and to the dense tropical jungles of the Far East.



All Royal Marines, except those in the Royal Marines Band Service, are first and foremost, commando soldiers. They are required to undergo what is recognised as one of the longest and most demanding infantry training regimes in the world. This is undertaken at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines at Lympstone, Devon in the West of England. A large proportion of the training is carried out on Dartmoor; rugged, inhospitable terrain epitomised in Conan Doyle's book 'Hound of the Baskervilles'.

On completion of his training, a Royal Marines Commando will normally join a Commando unit of 3 Commando Brigade. There are 3 Commando units in the Brigade; 40 Commando located at Norton Manor near Taunton in Somerset, 42 Commando at Bickleigh, near Plymouth, Devon and 45 Commando at Arbroath on the east coast of Scotland.

Until recently, Commando units were structured along similar lines to army battalions. However, commando units have just undergone a major restructuring, the first since the Second World War, which was aimed at meeting the new challenges of the more fluid world environment which has been evident since the end of the Cold War. The restructuring, which was known as Commando 21, has reorganised commando units so their structure is now considerably different from army battalions.



In a Commando unit, a young Royal Marine's life will be busy. His first duty will be to put his training into practice and to become a member of the team. The team will be his 4 man fire team, the building block of commando operations. He will work with his team in the field and live with them in his accommodation. During his time in a Commando unit he will almost certainly undergo environmental training in either a hot, arid, humid jungle, or cold mountainous conditions. Normal training areas are the Middle East, Belize or Brunei, and Scotland and Norway, though if he deploys as part of the Amphibious Ready Group, it could be anywhere in the world.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The Amphibious Ready Group is a highly mobile, well balanced amphibious force at sea, based on a Commando Group and its supporting assets, that can be kept at high readiness to deploy forward into an area of likely contingency operations. The Amphibious Ready Group is normally based around specialist amphibious shipping, most notably HMS OCEAN, the largest ship in the fleet. HMS OCEAN was designed and built to accommodate an embarked Commando unit and its associated stores and equipment. The Amphibious Ready Group is a potent force in waiting; it can 'poise' beyond the horizon and move swiftly as directed by HM Government. The concept was successfully used in operations in Sierra Leone.



Once our young Royal Marine has earned his 'spurs' basic training, he will be selected for specialist training. Royal Marines specialisations range from Mountain Leader to Physical Training Instructor, from Weapons Instructor to Signaller, from Chef to Driver. If he has the necessary attributes, he can also train for the UK's Special Forces with the Special Boats Service. Whatever specialisation he chooses, our Royal Marine will find himself with an active lifestyle in a constantly changing career. He will also become more aware of the breadth of operations of the Corps and the activities of higher formations, particularly 3 Commando Brigade.

The Headquarters of 3 Commando Brigade is based in Plymouth, Devon and it was from here that the Brigade was mounted out during the Falklands Campaign in 1982. The Commando Brigade not only consists of Royal Marines units, but also of the essential combat support elements provided by the Army, most notably 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery (based in Plymouth) and 59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers (based in Barnstaple). These units provide the specialist artillery and engineer support for the Brigade.



All ranks serving with these units also undergo Commando training on the All Arms Commando Course. In addition, Army ranks provide some of the specialist combat service logistic support to the Brigade, which is provided by the Commando Logistic Regiment, also located in Barnstaple, Devon. The whole Brigade provides a well balanced amphibious force which, with its associated amphibious shipping, is self sustaining and capable of operating without host-nation support.

The Royal Marines are one of the oldest units in the British Forces, formed in 1664 from the trained bands of London. They have a proud history and unique traditions; they have so many battle honours that the 'globe itself' has become the symbol of the Corps. Currently, Royal Marines are serving all round the globe from Afghanistan to Bosnia and from Northern Ireland to the United States as well as on board HM Ships deployed worldwide.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The Royal Marines now have a range of new equipment coming into service that is increasing the firepower and mobility of our units today and, by 2010, will have converged to provide a comprehensive, modern and highly effective range of capabilities that will take the UK Amphibious Force through to 2020 and beyond. The challenges now facing the Royal Marines are to organise the Landing Force to make best use of this equipment, to maximise the effectiveness of the Amphibious Force to deal with Defence Tasks assigned to it, and to evolve National and NATO operational concepts. The first part of this process is a programme for restructuring our 3 Commandos, which has been given the project title of "Commando 21".



We have to look first at the wider international arena and then look at the way British armed forces have adapted to the changing international scene. Since the end of the Cold War, a number of changes in general global security and Government policy have led to the frequent use of British forces on operations for which they had not originally been designed. Light infantry units, including the 3 RM Commandos, were intended to seize and hold key terrain by static defence, whilst armoured units or tactical air power manoeuvred to

strike the decisive blow. However recent developments in doctrine, the increasing involvement of British Forces in Peace Support type operations, and an increased emphasis on Force Protection, have placed growing demands upon us.

In response to these changes the Naval Service developed a new concept, known as the "Maritime Contribution to Joint Operations" (MCJO). This concept seeks to harness the characteristics and capabilities of Maritime Forces to support a land campaign and so, in consequence, amphibious forces sit at the centre of the maritime contribution to Britain's defence policy. For example a forward deployed Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), capable of expeditionary operations, is a consequence of this new thinking and since its first deployment last year, the ARG has established itself as part of the lexicon of British defence diplomacy. Another consequence is an examination of the structure of Commandos to allow them to increase their operational tempo – getting them to hit harder, faster and more accurately.



This shift in the concept of operations has been matched by the introduction of new equipment to fit amphibious forces more closely to their new role. We are currently in the happy position that a convergence of equipment Programmes will see the UK Amphibious Force with a suite of modern ships, aircraft, weapons, vehicles and Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) assets that will set the way we do our business until at least 2020. A key capability, the LPH HMS OCEAN, is already in

service and has successfully proved its worth. Other assets have been introduced into Commandos, and more are about to be introduced.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

These include new weapons such as the Long-Range Rifle (LRR), the Heavy Machine Gun (HMG) and the Light Forces Anti-Tank Guided Weapon (LFATGW) and new vehicles, notably the Wolf Land Rover replacement and most importantly, an armoured all terrain vehicle that will provide units with a degree of protected mobility, known as the Viking.

Essentially, Commando 21 sees the re-organisation of the Commando unit into a command, a logistics, a close combat, and a fire support element. It is a major departure from the traditional platoon and company organisation, which has been the structure of infantry units since the end of the Second World War.

### 3 Commando Brigade

The Royal Marines' 3 Commando Brigade is the Royal Navy's amphibious infantry on permanent readiness to deploy across the globe, and is a core component of the UK's Joint Rapid Reaction Force. Together the Royal Navy's amphibious ships and the Brigade represent a highly mobile, self-sustained and versatile organisation, with a strategic power projection capability that is unique among the British armed services.



Since the end of the Cold War, the outbreak of crises is usually less predictable, and needs to be met by forces that are flexible, highly mobile and capable of a broad spectrum of operations, and which must be capable of contributing to Alliance and multi-lateral commitments as well as national needs.

Based mainly in the south-west of England, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines stands in constant readiness to move anywhere in the world to meet emergencies which threaten Britain's vital security interests, and those of its allies. As the landing force of the nation's amphibious force, it provides a unique national capability: independently or as an integrated part of a maritime contribution to a joint force. It has utility in all phases of a

campaign, from benign presence to the conduct of forced theatre entry combat operations.

Whilst amphibious forces provide a wide range of options at the tactical level, they also have distinct roles at the strategic and operational levels. They can sail early in a developing crisis, and with the use of complementary information operations demonstrate the will and capability of the nation, alliance or coalition. They can, in common with all naval forces, transit international waters without infringement of territorial boundaries or the need for basing and overfly rights, cross-border authority and host nation support. They can be kept ready offshore ('poised') almost indefinitely, offering presence without occupation and deterrence without commitment of forces ashore.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

An uncommitted amphibious task force is a significant factor in the estimate of any enemy commander, and requires him to retain coastal defence forces and a counter balancing reserve as a contingency against the threat of an amphibious raid or assault.

Since their creation in 1942 Royal Marines Commandos have engaged on active operations across the globe, every year, except 1968.

The origins of the Brigade can be traced to the formation of the first commando units after the British Army's retreat from Dunkirk in 1940, when Winston Churchill called for "specially trained troops of the hunter class, who can develop a reign of terror down these [German-occupied] coasts."

The Army formed ten commandos that year but it was not until Valentine's Day 1942 that the first Royal Marines Commando was formed. It was named RM 'A' Commando (now 40 Commando Royal Marines) and was involved in the disastrous Dieppe landings of August that year. In 1943 these commandos were grouped into brigades and 102 RM Brigade was formed.



Royal Marines Commando units fought across Europe taking part in campaigns in Sicily, Italy and the Dalmatian coast, including the landings at Salerno, Anzio and Termoli, while others in 102 RM Brigade (renamed 3 Special Service Brigade on 1 September 1943) fought in India and Burma. In October 1946 this formation was again renamed, this time 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines.

Five RM Commando units took part in the D-Day landings, the largest amphibious assault in history, when nearly two-thirds of the landing craft were manned by Royal Marines. At the end of World War Two, Army Commandos were disbanded and the commando role was assigned exclusively to the Royal Marines. Between 1945 and 1971 the Brigade acted as the mobile reserve in the Mediterranean and the Far East, with the Headquarters being based in Hong Kong, Malta and Singapore. Brigade units saw action in the Palestine emergency, the Malayan campaign, Brunei, Korea, Cyprus, Tanganyika and in the Borneo confrontation with Indonesia.

In the Anglo-French assault on Port Said at Suez in 1956, 3 Commando Brigade landed by sea and air, with 45 Commando mounting the world's first ever helicopter assault, from Royal Navy aircraft carriers. Later in 1961 Royal Marines Commandos were sent to the Gulf to prevent an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In 1971, after 28 years abroad, the Brigade returned to England, with its Headquarters based in Plymouth at Stonehouse Barracks, where Royal Marines have been stationed since the barracks were built in 1783.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

Between 1971 and 1978 the Brigade had a major commitment to NATO's southern flank, with 41 Commando Group based in Malta for much of this time. In 1975, 40 and 41 Commandos speedily deployed to Cyprus after the Turkish invasion of the island. During the 1970s increased emphasis was placed on the northern flank of NATO with 45 Commando Group training annually in arctic Norway. By 1978 annual winter deployments had started to include most Brigade units. Royal Marines Commando units were among the first troops drafted into Northern Ireland in 1969 and have served in the Province almost every year since, predominantly in the nationalist heartlands of West Belfast and South Armagh.

In 1982 after the invasion of the Falkland Islands by the Argentines, 3 Commando Brigade, augmented by two battalions from the Parachute Regiment, sailed for the South Atlantic within five days of being warned for operations.



The Brigade completed successful amphibious landings at San Carlos, and then fought throughout the six-week campaign, which resulted in the surrender of all Argentinean forces on the island. The operation was a total success and demonstrated the quality, stamina and expertise of units within the Brigade.

The Brigade's ability to deploy at speed and its unique qualification in mountain warfare resulted in it being deployed on Operation Haven, to protect Kurdish refugees from potential slaughter by Iraq's state police in 1991 following the first Gulf war. Later, in 1994, as the 'Spearhead battalion', 45 Commando was again deployed to Kuwait, as part of the Allied response to a further threat of an Iraqi invasion.

Elements of the Brigade have deployed to the Balkans since the break-up of former Yugoslavia began, in 1991, and detachments drawn from commando units led ship-based boarding parties to enforce UN sanctions in the Adriatic. In addition, Tactical Air Control Parties and a commando battery from the Brigade deployed to the region in 1995 and were among the leading elements of the multinational implementation force, which took over from the United Nations in 1996. Finally, the Brigade Headquarters, with 45 Commando and other units of the Brigade, deployed to Kosovo in 2000.

The Brigade's unique capabilities and deploy ability were again recognised in 1996 when it became one of the two core brigades within the Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF); now the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF). As part of the JRRF the brigade retains a Lead Commando Group ready to deploy world-wide at very short notice. In 1998 40 Cdo and 539 Assault Sqn deployed to the Congo as part of a JRRF contingency force, while 42 Commando deployed to Sierra Leone in 2000, also at short notice.

In recent years the Corps has continued to be involved in high-profile operations and the scale and type of role has seen the Brigade in varied environments ranging from jungle to desert. Since the tragic events of 2001, the Brigade has played a key role in the UK's subsequent military operations.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

In 2002 the Brigade deployed at short notice to Afghanistan to assist in the neutralisation of Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters.

Most recently, the Brigade conducted the first conventional ground operation of the last Gulf war, and opposed amphibious assault to secure Iraqi oil infrastructure on the Al Faw peninsula. Subsequently, the Brigade assisted in the break-in to Basra, Iraq's second city.

### Brigade Structure

The Brigade is structured on three commando units, which are reinforced by the combat support and combat service support units from within the force. These provide the necessary specialist skills to meet the complex and very specialised tasks required by an amphibious assault force engaged in rapid reaction intervention, and to sustain it in those tasks. In transition to war Royal Marines Reservists as well as Territorial Army Commando gunners, engineers and logisticians enhance the Brigade. Otherwise it is in all respects a self-contained force, well capable of fully deploying its leading elements and logistic support within five days, as demonstrated during Operation Haven, when the Brigade deployed to northern Iraq following the first Gulf war at very short notice.



**United Kingdom Landing Force Command Support Group (CSG)** The Command Support Group (CSG) is the unit of 3 Commando Brigade with responsibility for achieving information superiority over an adversary. It does this by obtaining information, passing it securely, controlling and degrading the information available to an adversary and protecting, moving and sustaining the Brigade Headquarters (and other key information facilities). The CSG ensures that the Brigade Commander has superior situational awareness, allowing him to make quicker, more accurate decisions and to target his adversary's key capabilities. In order to achieve this, the CSG uses Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR), combined with communications, information systems and Information Operations (including Electronic Warfare and Psychological Operations). Its aim is to bring these effects together under a single, coordinated tactical plan; in effect, fighting the "information battle".

The CSG grew out of 3 Commando Brigade's Headquarters and Signals Squadron; although it also traces its history back to Royal Marines units tasked with signals, reconnaissance and intelligence operations during the Second World War. It achieved full unit status in 2000, and is now a multifunctional "information regiment" of some 450 personnel. Much of its capability lies in its three organic squadrons, but it also tasks and coordinates non-organic assets, such as aerial reconnaissance platforms, to achieve its effect. In order to carry out its role in sustaining and protecting Brigade Headquarters, it has forces transferred to it from other parts of the Brigade.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

This process of tasking, fusing and coordinating a number of diverse capabilities to achieve a single aim is central to the way it does its business and is carried out in the CSG Headquarters, which is composed of a number of functional cells dealing with specialist capabilities, directed by a central Command Cell.

### Communications Squadron

Communications Squadron is manned by Royal Marine Signallers and provides secure communications for the Brigade Headquarters to its Units. In addition, it provides satellite communications from any location in the world to a rear-link command or seaborne headquarters, and to the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood Quarters.



**Brigade Patrol Troop** consists of four six-man teams.

They work ahead of the main force in a reconnaissance role, collecting information on the enemy and reporting back directly to the Brigade HQ. They are often deployed in advance of the main amphibious landings.

**Y Troop** are the electronic warfare specialists. equipped with cutting-edge communications intercept equipment, they can locate and exploit enemy transmissions, providing high-level, real-time intelligence.

**Air Defence Troop** is equipped with the new High Velocity Missile (HVM) and detachments are employed on point defence tasks for high-value targets such as Brigade HQ or supply dumps.

### Logistics Squadron

This Squadron is responsible for logistical support to both Brigade Headquarters and UKLF CSG. It is made up of a Equipment Support Troop, Catering Troop, Motor Transport Troop and Stores Troop.



**Royal Marines Police Troop** co-ordinates vehicle movements out of the beachhead, marks the main supply routes and provides convoy escorts. In addition, they provide close protection for the Brigade Commander.

**Medium Reconnaissance** While there is no longer a designated unit linked to the Brigade, if required for a particular operation, an Army squadron of light armoured vehicles would be attached. This happened in Iraq in 2003, when a squadron from the Queens Dragoon Guards joined the Brigade.

**The Commando Units** 40, 42 and 45 Commandos are the core manoeuvre units of the Brigade and provide its immediate combat capability. Each is 700-men strong and can deploy as a Commando Group including in its orbat elements from the combat support units.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

**40 Commando Royal Marines** is based at Norton Manor Camp 2 miles North of Taunton, Somerset. The Unit was formed on the 14th February 1942 during the Second World War and moved to its present location in May 1983. (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta Companies)

Formed in 1942, from A Commando, 40 Commando was the first RM Commando Unit. It saw early action during the raid on Dieppe in August of that year. From 1943 to 1945 the Commando was involved in the Italian Campaign, at Termoli, Lake Comacchio and subsequently in Yugoslavia. For its decisive action the Commando was awarded the Termoli battle honour.

Following the Second World War the Commando was deeply involved in Palestine acting as the rearguard in the Protectorate, leaving in 1948. They subsequently undertook security duties in Cyprus, Hong Kong and Egypt before moving to Singapore in 1961, where it was involved in operations during the confrontation with Indonesia throughout the following decade.

In 1971 the Commando left Singapore and re-established itself in Seaton Barracks, Plymouth. Over the next decade the Commando found itself deployed to Northern Ireland four times and also undertook an unexpected two month tour in Cyprus after the invasion by the Turkish Army.

In 1982, following the Argentinean invasion of the Falkland Islands, the Commando deployed on Operation Corporate. On 21 May the Commando were among the first troops ashore and secured the beachhead at San Carlos. The Unit was subsequently split having two companies attached to the Welsh Guards, preparing to attack Port Stanley, when the Argentinean surrender came.

On their return the Commando spent the rest of the decade involved in a variety of tasks including two Northern Ireland tours to South Armagh, a six-month Peace-Keeping tour in Cyprus and a six month operational tour in Belize. During the tour in Cyprus the Commando was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for the third time. Also during this period, in 1983, the Commando relocated to Norton Manor Camp near Taunton.

In 1991 the Unit undertook its first Norway deployment but found itself undergoing a dramatic climatic change when, due to the Gulf War, it deployed to Northern Iraq to ensure the security of Kurdish refugees. Northern Ireland tours, Norway winter deployments and a major Asia-Pacific Exercise kept the Commando busy through the following years.

In 1998 a substantial part of the Commando deployed to the Congo to ensure the safe evacuation of UK nationals from Kinshasa City.

The new millennium saw the Commando deploy to Northern Ireland and on their return they were the first Commando to reorganise under a new structural concept called Commando 21.

The Unit deployed in its entirety in January 2003, initially part of the Naval Task Group (NTG) 03 in HMS Ocean, Ark Royal and RFAs Sir Galahad and Tristram.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The group sailed through the Mediterranean, after a brief stop at Cyprus, continuing through the Suez Canal bound for the Arabian Gulf. The United Nations were engaged in diplomatic efforts to avoid the need for military intervention in Iraq as the Unit was busy rehearsing in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait for possible operations against Sadaam Hussein's repressive regime. In March 2003 a coalition force, under the overall command of the United States, entered Iraq with the expressed intention of liberating its population from persecution and removing the intolerable threat to global security posed by its dictator.

During Operation TELIC, the liberation of Iraq, on the night of 20 March 2003, 40 Commando, under the command of Lt Col G K Messenger OBE, mounted an amphibious helicopter assault to seize key Iraqi oil infrastructure on the Al Faw peninsula. As the first conventional troops on the ground, the strategic significance of the operation was immense and, as the Divisional Main Effort, the assault was supported by a vast array of coalition firepower.

The Commando Group's role in the success of the coalition operation in Iraq was pivotal and profound. In a two-week period of intense operations, it secured key oil infrastructure, cleared a large expanse of enemy held terrain, and defeated a major enemy stronghold on the periphery of Basra, killing over 150 Iraqi soldiers and taking 440 prisoners.

2004 has seen the Unit's return to Iraq as part of a multi-national division peace-support operation. Under the command of Lt Col R W Watts OBE, it has been instrumental in maintaining the security of the country's infrastructure with particular attention being paid to the oil-pipelines in the southern region that keep the economic 'life-blood' of Iraq flowing. Additionally, the Commando has been responsible for convoy protection, counter insurgency and border security operations.

As the role of the Commando develops it is increasingly contributing to the development of the fledgling security forces within Iraq and the Unit's commitment, in-theatre, until early 2005, will see it well placed to assist in the country's forthcoming landmark elections.

**42 Commando Royal Marines** Bickleigh Camp was built by A French & Co. in early 1940. The site was originally designated as a sewage disposal farm, but the Plymouth Emergency Hostels Society needed an evacuee camp; in fact the first occupants were Free French and Polish servicemen. (Juliet, Kilo, Lima, Mike Companies)

The following year the camp was taken over by the Canadian Fire Fighting Service until the end 1942 when it was returned to the Civil Defence Organisation for its original purpose of housing refugees. The camp was called the General Evacuation Centre (South West).

By the end of the war Polish Naval personnel once again occupied the camp but it was empty when the first Royal Marines arrived, namely the advanced elements of 27 (RM) Training Battalion in 1945.

In Burma during January 1945, following the capture of the Myebon Peninsular, 3 Commando Brigade was given the task of making a further landing near Kangaw, with the intention of cutting Japanese lines of withdrawal down the coast.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

On 22 January 1945, 42 Royal Marines Commando (Lt Col H H Dales) together with No 1 Commando landed and occupied positions in the mangrove swamp.

Subsequently the Commando was ordered to capture a heavily wooded ridge known as Hill 70. Two days of hand-to-hand fighting were necessary before the Japanese could be driven from the ridge, and no sooner were they dislodged than they subjected it to heavy artillery fire.

After a lull of several days, the Japanese counterattacked at dawn on 31 January 1945. The enemy attacked repeatedly. In spite of heavy casualties to the Commando, the Japanese were finally beaten off and withdrew leaving their dead lying thickly among forward Commando positions.

In a Special Order of the Day to 3 Commando Brigade, Lt Gen Sir Philip Christison, Commander of XV Corps, concluded. "The Battle of Kangaw has been the decisive battle of the whole Arakan campaign, and that it was won was very largely due to your magnificent defence of Hill 170".

On 1 April 1946 an Infantry Training Cadre was established, part of the Royal Marines Training Group (Devon), and the camp soon developed into the Infantry Training School with Officer Cadet Training Wing, a Commando School and Cliff Assault Wing (base at St. Ives).

In 1950 Bickleigh was redesignated the Commando School Royal Marines, which it remained until 1960 when the school moved to Lymstone.

The value of Bickleigh as a military training area lies in its close proximity to Dartmoor, with its ideal training areas and ranges, coupled with its proximity to Plymouth for easy maritime access. However, during the 1950's, despite continuing as the Royal Marines Commando School, a number of operational tasks fell to its occupants.

The government decided to send a small Commando Force when the Korean War broke out. 41 (Independent) Commando Royal Marines, which formed up at Bickleigh on 16 August 1950, included many members of the staff. This unit disbanded at the Royal Marines Barracks Stonehouse on 22 February 1952.

In September 1954, 42 Commando returned to the UK after the draw-down of the British forces in Malta, and remained there as an operational nucleus till they were reactivated to become the first commando to embark in a Commando Carrier, HMS Bulwark in March 1960.

During the intervening years, the unit was brought up to strength for the Suez crisis, rejoining 3 Commando Brigade in Malta and was the initial landing force across the beaches of Port Said in November 1958 for the Lebanon crisis.

It was during this time that the decision was taken to move the Commando School to the newly developed Lymstone and in early 1960 the school redeployed there, just in time to allow Bickleigh to be used for the deactivation of 41 Commando.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

This unit formed on 31 March 1960 and remained there as part of the UK Strategic Reserve, taking part in exercises as far away as Norway and the West Indies. It was operationally deployed to Tanganyika and Kenya in February 1964 returning to Bickleigh on 7 April.

A large redevelopment programme got under way that year; the wooden and nissen huts were replaced by a permanent brick barracks, which was finally completed in 1971. By this time 41 Commando, having carried out two operational tours in Northern Ireland, moved to Malta as garrison troops on 3 September 1971. This coincided with the withdrawal of 3 Commando Brigade from the Far East and 42 Commando once again took over occupation of Bickleigh, where they have remained until this day.

During the initial landings on the Falkland Islands on 21 May 1982, 42 Commando RM (Lt Col N F Vaux RM) were Brigade Reserve at Port San Carlos, before seizing Mount Kent in a night move by helicopter. By 4 June the unit had moved forward, mostly under cover of darkness, to positions west of high ground overlooking Stanley and the last Argentine stronghold. After days of probing reconnaissance, a Brigade assault took place on the night of 11/12 June in which the Commando's task was to secure Mount Harriet on the Brigade right flank.



By moonlight and in freezing temperatures, 42 Commando moved undetected through enemy minefields in a 9 kilometre right-flanking movement to surprise the enemy in their rear. Consecutive assaults by "K" and "L" Companies followed, up steep slopes onto company positions amongst the crags at either end of the feature. Careful planning, resolute leadership and the boldness and determination of marines against initially strong resistance and continuous artillery bombardment, eventually prevailed.

By first light more than 30 enemy had been killed and over 300 prisoners taken as 42 Commando consolidated on Mount Harriet.

Apart from many operational deployments to Northern Ireland, deploying troops to the New Hebrides in 1980 and exercising regularly overseas, the commando has recently seen operational service in South Georgia, Montserrat in 1995 and South Armagh in 1998/99.

**45 Commando Royal Marines** is based at Royal Marines Condor in Arbroath, Scotland, formed in August 1943, and played its part to the full throughout the remainder of World War II. (Whiskey, X-Ray, Yankee, Zulu Companies)

This included the D-Day landings in Normandy, the subsequent fighting through Holland and thereafter the crossings of the Rhine, Weser and Elbe rivers.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The post-war years saw no let up, the Commando deployed on operations to Palestine, Suez (where it performed the first ever, operational helicopter assault in 1956), Malaya, Aden and Cyprus. The Commando finally returned to the UK in 1967 after 24 years operational service abroad and moved to its current base in Arbroath in 1971.



Throughout the 1970s at the height of the Cold War, the Commando honed its new mountain and cold weather warfare skills for its role to defending Norway and NATO's northern flank. Amphibious exercises north of the Arctic Circle were interspersed throughout the 70s and 80s with operational tours of duty in Northern Ireland.

In 1982, the Commando demonstrated its amphibious expertise, when as part of 3 Commando Brigade, it took part in Operation Corporate, the recapture of the Falkland Islands. 45 Commando 'yomped' across the island of East Falkland and successfully defeated Argentine forces in the crucial battle for Two Sisters.

In the post-Cold War era of the 1990s the unit saw no reduction in operational tempo. In 1991 it deployed to Northern Iraq on a humanitarian assistance mission to provide a safe haven for the Kurdish people, and in 1994 it was dispatched to reinforce the Kuwaiti border against renewed Iraqi aggression.



In 1998 whilst exercising in the Caribbean with HMS Ocean, the Royal Navy's new helicopter carrier, the unit was on hand to provide life saving assistance to the population and to help in repairing the infrastructure after Hurricane Mitch devastated Nicaragua and Honduras.

The subsequent television and media coverage of the operation demonstrated once more the flexibility and utility of an amphibious force that was able to react quickly and effectively. In recognition of this action, the Wilkinson Sword of Peace was awarded jointly to the Commando and the ship.

The trend towards deployability and wider utility has been carried forward into the new millennium. In 2000 the unit deployed to Belize to conduct jungle environmental training, returning briefly to the UK prior to undertaking a six-month operational tour in support of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. The Unit returned in March 2001 and has since reorganised into the Commando 21 order of battle with 4 manoeuvre companies (W, X, Y, Z), Command and Logistic companies.

In March 2002 the Unit renewed its relationship with HMS Ocean providing the Landing Force component of Amphibious Ready Group (ARG).

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

It was from this platform that the Commando deployed into Afghanistan to conduct war-fighting operations on OP JACANA in support of the War against Terrorism. In the first land warfare operations of this type since the Falklands, the Unit moved through eastern Afghanistan to the border with Pakistan, denying territory to Al Qaeda and simultaneously destroying their infrastructure and weapon caches. The Commando recovered to RM Condor in July of the same year.

In early 2003 Parliament announced the deployment of 3 Cdo Bde to Op Telic with the objective of ridding Saddam Hussein's regime of its weapons of mass destruction. Although the unit did not deploy as a Commando Group, about 487 members deployed on operations all told. The tasking of the companies that deployed varied tremendously contributing significantly to the swift success of the Coalition forces.

### 29 Commando Regiment

The Close Support Artillery Regiment that supports 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines. Formed in 1961 the Regiment is based in the Royal Citadel Plymouth and has detached batteries at Arbroath and Poole. 3 Commando Brigade is a light amphibious infantry brigade that specializes in mountain and cold weather warfare and equally operates at the other extreme of temperature in the desert and the jungle.

29 Commando Regiment provides the Brigade with offensive fire support coordinating fire from the Regiment's own 105mm Light Guns, Mortars, Naval Gun Fire and Close Air Support.

### The Commando Batteries

#### 7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery Royal Artillery

Equipped with six 105mm Light Guns, 7 (Sphinx)

Commando Battery Royal Artillery is based in Arbroath, Angus alongside 45 Commando Royal Marines. This is the only Battery in the Royal Artillery that lives alongside the infantry it supports creating a tremendous working and social relationship. In this part of the UK adventure training opportunities are endless. If you enjoy skiing, mountaineering, canoeing or simply enjoy a day's fishing 7 Battery's location is ideal. 7 Battery have recently returned from Op TELIC in Iraq where they provided offensive fire support to 42 Commando. They are currently undergoing a period of consolidation and career course programmes.



#### 8 (Alma) Commando Battery Royal Artillery

Based in the Royal Citadel Plymouth the Battery is known as "Black Eight" because of their efforts at the Battle of Alma where the Battery fired more rounds than any other leaving the faces of the gunners black with powder stains.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

Black Eight is the second gun battery in the Regiment and is also equipped with six 105mm Light Guns and three Observation Parties. The past 18 months has seen 8 Battery deploying on Operations to both Afghanistan and Iraq where they were involved in the thick of both operations as well as fitting in a two month training exercise in California. Along with the other Batteries in the regiment they are currently undergoing a period of consolidation and career course programmes.

### **23 (Gibraltar 1779 - 1783) Commando Headquarters Battery Royal Artillery**

23 Battery Based in the Royal Citadel, Plymouth and is responsible for providing the Regiment with Command and Control systems together with Administrative support. The Battery also maintains a Radar Troop which locates enemy mortar locations and a high tech Signals Troop. Wherever the gun Batteries deploy, there will normally be elements of 23 Battery deployed in vital support. 23 Battery also has opportunities for other arms and services including Adjutant Generals Corps administrators, Royal Logistic Corps chefs and storemen and medics from the Royal Army Medical Corps.

### **79 (Kirkee) Commando Battery Royal Artillery**

79 Bty was awarded the battle honour Kirkee after its heroic efforts in the Battle Kirkee on November 5th 1817, in India. Also based in the Royal Citadel, 79 Bty are equipped with six 105mm Light Guns and three Observation Parties, who can call in accurate artillery, air and naval gunfire. Last year saw 79 Battery operating in the infantry role alongside 42 Commando in South Armagh. Following a short period of leave, members of 79 Battery were split down to reinforce and bolster 7 and 8 Battery's in war fighting operations in Iraq. Towards the end of the deployment 79 Battery reformed and had its own area of responsibility patrolling on the Al Faw Peninsular assisting in rebuilding the community infrastructure.

### **148 (Meiktila) Commando Forward Observation Battery Royal Artillery Naval Gunfire Support**

148 Forward Observation Battery's primary role is to provide specialist naval gunfire forward observation teams. The battery is an integral part of 29 Commando Royal Artillery and they have served in all major operations in recent history.

148 Battery principally direct naval gunfire but are also trained to control and co-ordinate fast jets and artillery fire. Each team has the ability to patrol in all terrains and climates and to recognise all types of armoured fighting vehicles and aircraft. Each team also has an integral medical capability and each man is trained in survival skills and resistance to interrogation.

148 Battery is unique in that it contains both Army and Naval personnel. The teams can insert into the area of operations by any of the following means - on foot, by ski, by parachute, helicopter, boat, submarine or vehicle. The small teams of highly trained men are capable of deploying into any environment and delivering all forms of indirect fire on the enemy, whilst providing detailed intelligence to higher formations. Teams from 148 Battery have deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### **59 and 131 Independent Commando Squadrons Royal Engineers**

59 and 131 Independent Commando Squadrons Royal Engineers provide integral engineer support to 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines. This support is vital to ensure the Brigade's mobility and protection as well as fulfilling a number of other tasks.

59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers is based at RMB Chivenor in North Devon. The Squadron consists of a headquarters, 3 field troops, a reconnaissance troop, a support troop and a workshop.

59 Independent Commando Squadron was originally formed at Chatham in 1900 as 59 Field Company. It served with the Brigade in the Far East as 59 Field Squadron before reforming in Plymouth in 1971 as 59 Independent Commando Squadron.

The Squadron is responsible for all engineer tasks in the Brigade forward area. This includes route maintenance, bridging, water supply, provision of bulk fuels, construction of field defences and structures, minelaying and mine clearance. As well as possessing a large number of skilled craftsmen, the Squadron also has a variety of plant machinery and other equipment.

This gives the Unit the capability to tackle almost any form of construction or demolition. Additionally, the Squadron also has a diving team, trained to survey rivers and beaches in order to identify their suitability for bridging.

### **131 Independent Commando Squadron RE (V)**

As a Commando unit the majority of personnel have completed the Reserve Forces All Arms Commando Course, run by the Royal Marines at Lympstone. This demanding course is where 131 participants pass the same tests as the Regulars; this is the foundation for all further training.

The unit frequently deploys on tasks with or to support the Regular Forces in both the UK and abroad. In recent years the Squadron deployed personnel to Iraq, Afghanistan, Oman, USA, Norway, France, Malawi, the Falkland Islands, Romania and Egypt on exercises and training with 3 Commando Brigade units.



The Squadron has worked hard to build up the reputation of a TA unit second to none with a professional approach to part time soldiering. Its personnel have earned the respect of their regular counter parts with many former Regular soldiers joining the Squadron.

To be ready to provide general engineering support to 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines

131 Independent Commando Squadron RE(V) is 200 strong and has Troops in Hull, Birmingham, Plymouth and Kingsbury, London. The unit strength is made up of a mix of Territorial Army, Ex Regular and Regular Army personnel.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

Currently each location has vacancies for motivated and determined individuals who wish to attempt the Commando Course. If you are interested in applying to join the Squadron you can use the link below to fill out a online proforma and details will be posted to you. Alternatively contact the location closest to you.

### **Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines**

Today's Commando Logistic Regiment has the capability to deploy specifically configured Logistic Task Groups to support any sized force from a company group to a brigade anywhere in the world. Once a beach has been assaulted and secured, the first elements of the Regiment ashore would be the Landing Force Support Party, closely followed by the main logistical requirements.



When 3 Cdo Bde RM operates as an expeditionary force, the Logistic Regiment can "sea-base" itself on shipping, and re-supply from sea to shore. The manpower totals 700, but during operational times can swell to 1000. These Marines, Sailors and Soldiers form the Regiment in five squadrons.

### **Headquarters Squadron**

Headquarters Squadron (HQ Sqn) is the biggest and most diverse Sqn within Commando Logistic Regiment. When fully manned, it has just over 200 personnel spanning 8 departments.

The primary role of HQ Sqn is to co-ordinate the command and control function of logistic distribution, relaying stores information by computer from ship to shore and collating field requirements from forward units and assessing their priority of order for delivery or recovery. The Squadron is also responsible for providing what is termed 'first line' or initial support to the Regiment.

### **Landing Force Support Party**

This Squadron is organised and tailored to support designated tasks. It would be landed immediately after the ground troops during the initial stage of an amphibious operation. It provides control of beach and landing support areas and specific Combat Service Support to the Landing Force. When the remainder of the Commando Logistic Regiment is landed, the LFSP is subsumed into the Regiment's functional areas. Should the distance between the Regiment and ground troops become extended, the LFSP would be deployed forward to once again provide intimate support.



### **Equipment Support Squadron**

The Equipment Support Squadron provides the second line repair and recovery for all the equipment used by 3 Commando Brigade. The repair of equipment can range from a rifle through to the replacement of entire engines systems.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The Squadron is primarily manned by Royal Marines, but also contains some Army personnel, from trades such as Vehicle Mechanics, Armourers and Metalsmiths. Operating in small teams, these personnel are trained to repair and recover all vehicles used by the Brigade. The Squadron ensures that vehicles are repaired as close to the front line as possible, in order that they can be returned to the battle quickly and efficiently.

### Logistic Support Squadron

The Squadron is comprised of a headquarters and three Troops made up from a combination of Royal Marines and the Army's Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) personnel. The role of the Squadron is to provide 3 Commando Brigade with 2nd line logistic support that includes transport, stores and bulk fuel. Technical Troop holds sixty days of fast moving, technical and general spares and has the ability to deploy airportable, Advance Ordnance Detachments (AODs).

Petroleum Troop operates Truck Transporters Fuel (TTF). They have the ability to work from 'Ship-to-Shore' with various specialist equipments and have the responsibility for the installation of Bulk Fuel Installations (BFIs). Transport Troop use Dismountable Rack Offload Pickup System (DROPS) vehicles to provide the lift needed to supply combat supplies, artillery ammunition and engineering equipment.



### Medical Squadron

Based at Royal Marines Chivenor, Devon, Medical Squadron provides flexible, emergency medical and surgical support to 3 Commando Brigade on operations around the world. Manned by Royal Navy Medical Assistants, MAs, Naval Nurses, NNs, Forward Surgical Teams, FSTs, and Royal Marine Commandos, Medical Squadron, comprises a headquarters and two Commando Forward Surgical Groups, CFSGs.



Each one of these is configured to deploy forward to allow Damage Control Surgery, saving life and limb, to be performed within 2 hours of troops being injured.

The squadron is still restructuring itself following Operation TELIC in order to be better able to provide a versatile, modular, rapidly deployable and effective medical facility. Each CFSG consists of Medical Sections, 'A&E department', FSTs, 'operating theatre', EVAC sections, recovery ward and patient care for up to 6hrs, and Ambulance sections.

Recent Operational deployments include OP JACANA in Afghanistan and OP TELIC in Iraq.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

**539 Assault Squadron Royal Marines** operates landing craft, raiding craft and hovercraft, providing additional mobility to the assault force. The Squadron can also be used to support pre-landing operations. For amphibious landings the Squadron may be supplemented by additional craft from 4, 6 and 9 Assault Squadrons Royal Marines based on the amphibious ships.

539 Asslt Sqn RM was formed on 2 April 1984 and commissioned operational on 24 July 1984, giving 3 Commando Brigade an integral amphibious movement capability. This was in direct response to lessons learned during the Falklands Conflict in 1982.

Today the Sqn consists of over 100 personnel and is equipped with a variety of Landing Craft including Hovercraft (LCAC), Rigid Raiding craft (RRC), Inflatable raiding craft (IRC) and Landing Craft Vehicle/Personnel. The Sqn is based in Turnchapel on the outskirts of Plymouth, Devon.

539 Asslt Sqn is named after 539 Assault Flotilla which landed on D-Day as part of assault group two onto Gold beach. During the landing Cpl George Tandy (aged 19) was the coxswain of LCA 786 which had lost its steering wheel, so he stood on the rudder with water up to his waist and guided his craft into the beach, under fire for seven miles to land his troops. He was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM).

During the Falklands campaign the Sqn was formed for the duration of the operation, carrying out operations to support advance forces, the main formation landings and numerous covert landings of SBS and SAS troops. Most notably the Sqn was pivotal for the amphibious part of the push forward to Bluff Cove.



The Sqn continues to flourish today. It has undertaken no less than 8 operations since in recent years ranging from flood relief in Bangladesh through to evacuation of expatriates from Kinshasa in former Zaire. This is in addition to the supporting the very high tempo of exercises and deployments within 3 Cdo Bde RM with a variety of boat groups and coxswains.

### **Landing Craft Utility - (LCUs)**

LCLUs are 27 metres long and are capable of carrying a full rifle company of 120 marines, four lorries or four All Terrain Vehicles (ATV)/Land Rover and Trailer combinations. The LCU has a speed of 9 knots and a range of over 200 nautical miles.

### **Landing Craft Air Cushion (Light) - (LCAC (L))**

12 metres long this hovercraft capable of over 30 knots across water and land, and with an endurance of 12 hours. They can carry 16 fully equipped marines or 2 tonnes of stores.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### **Rigid Raiding Craft - (RRC)**

These small raiding boats 8 metre long, capable of carrying a section of 8 marines with full kit. The new Mk 3 RRC has a 240 BHP inboard diesel engine giving it a speed of more than 30 knots fully laden to a range of 120 nautical miles.

### **Inflatable Raiding Craft - (IRC Mk2)**

A small 'zodiac' – type craft, 5 metres long that can carry 5 marines with full kit. They are capable of a speed of 20 knots for up to two hours.

### **Mexeflotes**

Are large pontoons used to moving heavy logistic vehicles and equipment from ship to shore. They may be connected together allowing a floating quay to be constructed over which to off-load vehicles directly from ships.

### **Commando Helicopter Force**

Commando Helicopter Force (CHF) is a group of 4 squadrons and supporting elements, integrated under the command of an HQ, established to operate helicopters in support of the UK armed forces. It is a combined Royal Navy/Royal Marine force flying Sea King, Lynx and Gazelle helicopters and specializes in amphibious warfare. The Force operates world wide from its base at Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton in Somerset.

The four Squadrons consist of:

#### **845 Naval Air Squadron**

845 Naval Air Squadron primarily provides 3 Commando Brigade of the Royal Marines with tactical troop transport and load lifting helicopters. Together with all elements of the Commando Helicopter Force it is based at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton in Somerset. 845 operate the Sea King Mk 4 which has a clear cabin space to minimise weight and to maximise the size of cargo carried. It is capable of carrying underslung loads of up to 6000 pounds such as 105mm guns, Land Rovers and air defence missile systems. 26 troops can be accommodated in the cabin. The Mk4 has a comprehensive self defence suite to detect and deter anti-aircraft radar, missiles and guns. The Squadron can perform many other secondary roles. These include: Search and Rescue, Casualty Evacuation, Special Forces operations, Humanitarian operations, Ground force suppression, Abseiling, Parachuting, Assistance in Combat Search and Rescue. Motto: Audio Hostem - "I hear the enemy"

#### **846 Naval Air Squadron**

846 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) is one of four 'Junglie' Squadrons based at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton in Somerset. Equipped with 10 Sea King Mk4 Commando helicopters the Squadron is primarily dedicated to the support of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines. The nickname 'Junglie' evolved during the Borneo Campaign of 1963-66, as it was within the Indonesian jungle that the Squadron demonstrated how versatile naval helicopters can be. Since then 846 NAS have repeatedly proved their ability to deliver troops with the speed and mobility in inhospitable terrain that is essential to Commando operations. Motto: Semper Instans - Always Threatening

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### **847 Naval Air Squadron**

847 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) provides 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines (3 Cdo Bde RM), one of Britain's rapid response shock formations, with reconnaissance and anti armour support. It is the Brigade's primary anti-tank strike resource capable of engaging armour with TOW missiles at long range. The Squadron is based at the Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton in Somerset but spends most of the year on deployments around the world.

The Squadron is split into two flights. A Flight, operating eight Gazelle AH1 helicopters, whose primary role is reconnaissance for the Brigade Commander. Pilots however are trained to fulfil a number of other tasks including casualty evacuation, Fighter Aircraft Control, the direction and control of artillery fire and limited movement of men and material around the battlefield. B Flight consists of six Lynx Mk 7 aircraft equipped with TOW missiles and thermal imaging sights. Enemy tanks can be engaged from 4 km away with missiles that can defeat any modern armour. The Lynx is also suited to moving small numbers of infantry around the battlefield at speed. 3 Cdo Bde's combat power and ability to strike the enemy in depth is greatly enhanced by 847 NAS. Motto: Alto Ex Concutimus "We Strike From On High"

### **848 Naval Air Squadron**

The Royal Navy Commando Helicopter Force (CHF) enjoys a reputation for high standards of professionalism and flexibility and this is in no small part, attributable to the exacting and thorough instruction given by 848 Naval Air Squadron (NAS).

During its 55 year history, 848 Squadron has been disbanded and reformed several times but now has a more permanent standing, having been made the Commando Helicopter Training Squadron, based at the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton. With a complement of one hundred ratings and thirty officers, the Squadron is responsible for the instruction of up to sixty pilots and aircrewmembers each year. Operating the Sea King Mk 4, pilots undertake Advanced Flying Training - how to handle emergencies and how to fly with sole reference to instruments -before crewing up with the aircrewmembers, taken from Royal Navy Ratings and Royal Marines, to learn how to operate the aircraft in a tactical environment during operational flying training.

The Squadron also trains more than one hundred and fifty helicopter maintainers annually before sending them to the front line. Aircrew and maintainers receive military and amphibious training and are taught how to operate in the field and from the deck of a ship. 848 NAS is also committed to numerous UK maritime operations and airborne support for the Royal Marines. Motto: Accipe Hoc "Take that"

### **Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines**

The Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines is the only operational Royal Marines unit outside 3 Commando Brigade.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The Group works through the Commander Operations Fleet to the Commander-in-Chief Fleet, and is responsible for a wide range of tasks worldwide in support of the Royal Navy. FPGRM is based at the HM Naval Base Clyde, which is situated near Helensburgh on the West Coast of Scotland. The Group is over 500 strong and is made up of 3 rifle squadrons (O, R and S) plus an HQ squadron.

**Elements of Special Forces** could be attached, primarily for advance force operations, as was the case in the Falklands conflict. Traditionally these come from the Special Boat Service; however, on Op TELIC the US Navy SEALs operated with the Brigade on the Al Faw peninsula.

### **The Commando Training Centre Royal Marines**

The origins of the modern day Commando Training Centre can be traced back to 1939, when the Corps expanded prior to the Second World War, resulting in the original camp being built for the training of reservists, and initially called the Royal Marines Reserve Depot.

By November that year staff had begun to form training teams at the new camp, formerly part of the estate of Sir Francis Drake, and by late January 1940 the first of many thousands of Royal Marines arrived at the depot for training. During 1940 'Hostilities Only' Recruits were trained at Lympstone, while regular troops destined for sea service were trained at their Naval Divisions. The base then known as Exton Camp was also the temporary home of the 7th and 8th Royal Marine battalions as well as a Naval unit which was accommodated under canvas.

On 5 September 1941 the camp was renamed Depot Royal Marines Lympstone and at its peak was training 800 Royal Marines a month for war service. During this period a second camp at nearby Dalditch in Budleigh Salterton was home to the Royal Marines Infantry Training Centre (RMITC), which was responsible for the second phase of training. In 1943 training was extended from six to eight weeks and in 1944 the package expanded further to 18 weeks. At the end of the war, the Army could no longer spare infantry for the specialist amphibious role, and it fell naturally to the Royal Marines with the establishment of 3 Commando Brigade to maintain the capability. The Commando School at Archnacarry in Scotland closed with the responsibility transferring to the Royal Marines Training Group at Tywyn in Wales.

Records for 1946 show that 3,000 officers and men were living in 74 wooden huts at Lympstone, with an average 1,000 recruits under training at any one time. Dalditch was closed and Lympstone renamed, the Infantry Training Centre. Its role began to expand with both the Officer and NCO schools being transferred to the base.

During the 1960s the majority of the Corps' specialist infantry training, command and communication courses, and virtually all other aspects of Commando Training held at Bickleigh camp, near Plymouth, were relocated to Lympstone. A major building programme commenced and the first of the new accommodation blocks was opened on 12 July 1963. In 1970 the camp was finally renamed

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM). Four years later, in 1974, the move to put all elements of training and continuation courses under one roof was completed when the first phase of the Junior Royal Marine Course, which until then was held at Deal in Kent, transferred all training to CTCRM.

Throughout the 1970s work continued to shape Lympstone into a centre of military excellence with a swimming pool and gymnasium complex, Medical Centre, indoor range, lecture complex and even its own railway station being constructed. In 1976 the trees which held the 30 foot high Tarzan Course were retired and replaced with a safer metal frame structure. The Commando Training Centre at Lympstone has seen many changes since 1939, although it still retains one of the old wooden huts as a mark of respect to the pioneers of World War Two. Changes in management structure and training procedures and syllabi have occurred in response to lessons learned from practical experience and in response to the changing geopolitical environment.

In the 1990s the ability of commanders to recognise the need for change and implement it in an efficient and effective manner has led to the creation of a well balanced and inter-dependent unit at Lympstone ready to face the future. Having embraced the concept of Output Budget Management and Resource Accounting and Budgeting, CTCRM can accurately forecast and manage both training and administrative budgets.

Today CTCRM provides for all aspects of new entry training and continuation courses within one establishment, ensuring the highest standards are maintained, so guaranteeing the Royal Marines Command has personnel for its major manoeuvre element, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines and other operational units. Historically it is the quality of training maintained by Lympstone that has proved so vital to the success of 3 Commando Brigade on operational deployments such as Operation Corporate (the Falklands) and Operation Haven (Northern Iraq). It has also ensured that the Royal Marines have a lead role in the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF).



### The Structure of Lympstone



The Commando Training Centre is administered by a structured organisation of 3 training wings which are supported by the TSD and, focus on training policy whilst the Corps Colonel ensures that standards of Recruit and Officer selection are maintained. In addition the command element must adopt cost effective budget policies and procedures.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The 3 training wings cover the areas of recruit training, officer training; infantry support training, command courses for NCOs and specialist training for signallers and clerks. These comprehensive courses are fundamental to maintaining the continuity of standards within the Royal Marines.

Each of the 3 wings is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel who is responsible, through Director of Training, to the Commandant. The Commandant is the budget holder and directly responsible for the allocation of departmental funding to the Training Wings to meet the annual training targets delegated to Lympstone.

The Commandant is assisted in his management by a deputy, who as well as being the second-in-command is the legal 'Commanding Officer', responsible for such matters as the day to day administration of the base, discipline of troops and the security of the complex and outside training areas used by the Training Wings.

All Royal Marines return to Lympstone many times as they progress through their career. From the Potential Royal Marine Course (PRMC) to Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), from Potential Officers Courses (POC) to Commandant they will return to Lympstone. Equally they will attend specialist qualification courses at CTCRM to improve their military skills.

Facilities at Lympstone are wide ranging. They include, a first class gymnasium complex and swimming pool for combat swimming tests, an indoor range simulator incorporating the latest laser technology, a nearby 300 metre rifle range to assist Recruits in their shooting skills and on site training areas within the 95 acre base. In addition CTCRM has access to 2,500 acres of nearby Woodbury Common, as well as the training areas of Dartmoor and others in Wales and Scotland.

The combination of management and infrastructure oversees the training of, on average, 1,200 recruits per year, as well as 2,000 potential recruits who will attend acquaint courses and 400 potential officers. In addition the Training Wings run upwards of 320 courses a year for a further 2,000 students.

### Training Support Department

The Training Support Department (TSD) is responsible for ensuring that all training at CTCRM effectively prepares personnel for their jobs in the Corps. Additionally TSD continually monitors, evaluates and influences the extent to which training objectives are reached in relation to the expenditure of resources.



TSD is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel and is organised into three departments; Training Management, Education and Staff Training and Training Resources. The primary responsibility of the TSD is to oversee the management of training, ensuring a standardisation of policy throughout the Centre.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

**The Training Management Department** coordinates the training schedules for all Wings, evaluates and maintains the quality of training and designs the training for new courses or alterations to existing courses.

**The Education Department** runs educational and current affairs training for Recruits and Young Officers. It also runs a range of personal development courses for trained ranks such as; GCSEs, administering NVQs resettlement courses and computer based Interactive Learning.

**The Training Resources Department** provides graphics support to all Wings for the benefit of Staff and trainees. The department has a training aids library, photographic section, reprographics section and illustrators. It is also responsible for managing and allocating to other units the Woodbury Common Training Area (WCTA) and Straight Point Ranges.

### Command Wing

Command Wing was formed in 2001 by the amalgamation of Officers' Training Wing and NCO's Training Wing. This ensured better use of training resources and improved commonality in the teaching of doctrine and tactics.

Command Wing is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel who is supported by a Wing Staff Officer who is a Major and a small administrative staff. Young Officer training is run by a major supported by three officers and a team of NCO instructors. The Junior Command Course and Senior Command Course both have their own dedicated training teams of very experienced SNCOs who operate under the command of OC JCC and OC SCC, both of whom are Majors. The SO (LE), Advanced Command and RSMs Courses are run under the direction of OC Command Support Team.



Officers training first moved from the Bickleigh Infantry School near Plymouth to CTCRM in 1951 and until 2002 was conducted under the auspices of Officers' Training Wing. During the 1950's leadership cadres for NCOs were spread as widely as the Royal Marines with courses run in Britain, the Far East and Malta. In February 1960 during the temporary closure of Stonehouse Barracks, NCOs Training Wing moved to Lympstone and by the end of the decade all Command Training was concentrated at Lympstone.

The centralised training and assessment of all officers and NCOs ensures that the same policies, doctrine and tactics are taught throughout the Royal Marines, thus ensuring the highest level of interoperability between units.



# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### **Officer Training**

The success of the Royal Marines depends on thorough and arduous training, determination to succeed, a strong sense of teamwork and comradeship and most important - having the right men as leaders.

### **Non Commissioned Officers Training**

The operational capability of the Royal Marines relies heavily on the leadership qualities of its Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) - for its Corporals, Sergeants, Colour Sergeants and Warrant Officers who must actually implement the commander's plans.

### **Non Commissioned Officers Training**

The operational capability of the Royal Marines relies heavily on the leadership qualities of its Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) - for its Corporals, Sergeants, Colour Sergeants and Warrant Officers who must actually implement the commander's plans. In accordance with the principle that every Royal Marine is a Commando first and a Specialist second, every NCO is required to attend and pass the relevant Command Course before they will be eligible for promotion. The renowned high quality of the Corps' NCOs is testament to the effectiveness of the common syllabi of the Command Courses, conducted centrally at the Commando Training Centre.

The aim of Command Training is unambiguous - "To train selected candidates and NCOs for the next higher rank." The ultimate requirement of a Royal Marines NCO is to command men in battle. By training men for their next higher rank it ensures that they are able to assume the duties they are required to undertake in that rank both in peace and war.

CW seeks to develop in a man the right combination of example, persuasion and compulsion so that he can lead men in battle and through close contact with an enemy. The effectiveness of 3 Commando Brigade RM relies heavily on the leadership qualities of its NCOs.

The **Junior Command Course (JCC)** aims to teach and develop the leadership qualities of selected candidates, normally Lance Corporals, who wish to be considered for promotion to Corporal. The 11 week JCC provides the grounding for many of the skills required of a junior leader. It includes all elements of Military skills, including fieldcraft, navigation, weapon handling, tactics, fitness and first aid.

Even at this level of command, a high standard of instructional technique is expected of students on this course. This is wholly appropriate, since many will become specialists within the RMC and they will be expected to pass on such skills.

Crucial to any commander is the ability to receive and give orders. Considerable importance is given to the teaching of the NATO orders sequence, which when received, must be interpreted, the relevant information extracted and a new set of orders prepared and delivered to the appropriate task group. This is a skill that demands much practice. Candidates are critically assessed on their ability to make a combat estimate of a given situation from which they are expected to formulate a plan, give the relevant orders and take command throughout the execution of the plan.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The **Senior Command Course (SCC)** is designed to take the experienced Corporal to a position from which he may be considered for promotion to the rank of Sergeant. He will already have proved his potential within the Royal Marines and will have commanded a section of marines probably on operational duties.



His leadership attributes will have been reported upon for several years by different commanders and he will have gained the recommendation of his commanding officer before being selected for the course. The SCC aims to confirm the required levels of military skills and instructional techniques. Thereafter higher levels of tactics are taught as well as the administration skills required of a SNCO. On completion of the nine week course the student will be able to fulfil the duties of a Sergeant within a Commando Unit.

As such he must be capable of taking command of 30 men in the absence of an Officer, both in peacetime and battle conditions. He is responsible for the administration and logistic support of the men and he must be aware of Commando level doctrine and tactics.

**Advanced Command Course (ACC)** candidates are SNCOs normally having attained the rank of Colour Sergeant. The six week ACC concentrates on the higher tactics and administration of amphibious operations. An understanding of British Military Doctrine, International Affairs, Political Policies, and their effects, both military and socio-environmental is expected.

A detailed knowledge of the organisation of the Royal Marines and particularly 3 Commando Brigade is fundamental. In their next rank as a Warrant Officer candidates will be expected to administer either technical or combat manoeuvre sub-units of the Brigade, such as a Rifle Command in a Commando or a Support Squadron in the Logistic Regiment. A thorough understanding of Brigade operating procedures is necessary, as well as a detailed knowledge of military law, and of a Sergeant Major's administrative duties.

### Officer Training

The success of the Royal Marines depends on thorough and arduous training, determination to succeed, a strong sense of teamwork and comradeship and most important - having the right men as leaders. These officers must not only be physically fit, but must also be able to make intelligent command decisions in a wide range of challenging situations.

No other organisation in the UK Armed Forces carries out basic military training, to Operation Performance Standards (OPS), for both officers and men at the same establishment. The fact that both have occasion to see the other during such arduous training, as well as working together during field exercises, creates the basis of a mutual respect.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

All personnel who arrive at CTCRM for Young Officer (YO) training will have successfully passed the Potential Officers' Course. Many of the physical test standards for Young Officers (YOs) during commando training are deliberately set at a higher level to make sure YOs have the physical confidence to lead from the front and set an example to their men. CW trains around 40-50 YOs each year with an historical pass rate of around 76%.



YO candidates will be aged 18-26 and will have been selected by the Admiralty Interview Board, (AIB), along with Corps Commissioned YOs. The aim of CW is to train Royal Marine officers in two broad categories, YO and Staff Officer (Late Entry), (SO (LE)).

The present day YO course at Lympstone is designed to develop in the Royal Marines YO the qualities necessary to hold commissioned rank and to train him to command a rifle troop in a Commando unit. The programme also provides the basis for developing his career as a junior staff

officer. SO (LE) officers are selected from suitably qualified SNCOs of the Corps. These candidates have gained considerable experience, been recommended by their Commanding Officer, passed the SO (LE) Board and selected by the AIB.

The aim of this particular course is to train successful candidates to hold commissioned rank and to prepare them for their future duties.

### **Young Officer Course**

YO training consists of two phases. Phase One is 49 weeks long including 7 weeks leave and is conducted at CTCRM. This is followed by Phase Two training, an 11 month probationary period in one of the Units in the Royal Marines Command. The Phase One course at CTCRM is structured to progressively develop in the YO the requisite attributes and skills to a level whereby they can take their place in a Unit on the day they Pass Out. Every YO under training is continually assessed during the course. A critical eye is cast on all aspects of his character, his social interaction, personality, interests, hobbies and behaviour.

### **Specialist Wing**

Specialist Wing (SW) was formed in 2001 by the amalgamation of Infantry Support Wing and Signal and Clerks Training Wing. The Wing is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel who is supported by a small administrative staff. The amalgamation achieved improved integration of courses and economies of scale. However, the SW still operates in two divisions, Infantry Support Company (ISC) and Signal and Clerk Company (SCTC).

A Commando Unit must be self sustaining, capable of launching military operations in isolation or as part of a task orientated group. It must be properly trained to fight using the assets at its disposal. It must also be able to communicate effectively on the modern battlefield and be able to sustain itself administratively and logistically.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The role of SW in training to meet these multiple requirements is vital. Courses run include Assault Engineers, Snipers, Heavy Weapons, Signallers, Clerks, Stores Accountants and Illustrators. In addition SW plays a pivotal role in “training the trainer”, running courses for Platoon Weapon Instructors, Drill Instructors and PTI’s.



### **Infantry Support Company**

Provides training and expertise for the Royal Marines in the five core specialist branches and also supports all elements of training at CTCRM in these five areas. ISC also provides support in other areas such field training support.

### **Signal & Clerk Training Company**

Signal and Clerk Training Company is responsible for the training of a wide variety of skills, largely related to support functions.

### **Infantry Support Company**

The Company’s roots can be traced back to 1956 when Royal Marine Small Arms Training moved from Browdown Ranges in Gosport, to form the Small Arms Training Wing at the Infantry Training Centre, Lympstone. Heavy Weapons and Assault Engineers, then part of Commando Specialist Wing moved in April 1960 from the Commando Training School at Bickleigh in Plymouth.

These skills were joined by Drill, which moved in 1974 from Deal in Kent and Physical Training, which moved from Deal in 1979.

The purpose of Infantry Support Company has changed little since its creation, since the basic requirements of a Commando to operate specialist equipment in order to fight successfully has been proven over decades of military conflict.

Infantry Support Company provides training and expertise for the Royal Marines in the five core specialist branches and also supports all elements of training at CTCRM in these five areas. ISC also provides support in other areas such field training support.

The organisation of the Company is as modest as its tasks are complex. Under the guidance of a small headquarters, the five principle elements of ISC fulfil their specialist tasks. Attached to the HQ is Field Support Troop, an essential training group comprised of Mountain Leaders Section, Nuclear Biological and Chemical Warfare Section, Central Training Team and Field Training Staff.

Infantry Support Company may be credited with an enormous output to the Royal Marines, and thus the combat capabilities to the Brigade.

The list of courses conducted by Infantry Support Company is considerable. The titles alone give an indication of the breadth and scope of its contribution to the operations capability of the Corps. Again the importance of having centralised training for all ranks from around the Corps cannot be stressed too highly.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

To be able to utilise any suitably trained individual within any appropriate appointment in the Brigade with a full understanding of its role, task and operating procedures, is without doubt the route to military cohesion and success.

The courses include Snipers Course, Canoe and Climbing, Swimmer Canoeist, Heavy Weapons, Mortars; Anti Tank

The Company continues to support all specialists throughout the Corps after their training, providing advice and assistance, giving specialist input to all CTCRM courses. In addition the Company provides specialist Training Support in matters, relating to PW, HW, AE, PT and DL branches. Further detailed assistance is provided from staff in ML, Surveillance, NBC, Enemy and Demonstration Troops. The Central Training Team also conducts pre-course training.



### **The Future**

Far from being in a position to reduce its commitments, with the advent of a new weapons system and equipment within the combat elements of the Brigade, the role and tasks of the Infantry Support Company seem likely to expand.

Additions include the Heavy Machine Gun (HMG) which is to join the armoury, providing much needed additional protection and fire power to the ground troops and Long Range Rifle. New weapons simulators are likely to be incorporated into training. These can only be effective if operators are trained in their usage.

ISC continues to provide specialist expertise to the Royal Marines in a constantly changing technical environment. Add to this considerable support given to all Wings at the Commando Training Centre and it is easy to recognise the magnitude of its output.

### **Signal & Clerk Training Company Specialist Training**

Signal and Clerk Training Company is responsible for the training of a wide variety of skills, largely related to support functions. There are five disciplines covered at both basic and advanced levels: Signals, Clerks, Stores Accounts, Combat Intelligence and Service Funds.

There are 530 signallers in the Royal Marines Command (RMC) who are responsible for the provision and maintenance of communications both on the battle field and in shore establishments. A General Duties (GD) Marine qualifies as a signaller by successfully completing an S3 course. To pass the course he must have above average intelligence, be self reliant and to accept responsibility.

Signallers are now moving into the field of Information Systems (IS) and courses are constantly modified to cater for the rapid developments in this field. In addition to training, SCTC carries out signals trials and assists with projects.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The Company has conducted trials for the BOWMAN project. BOWMAN is a £2 billion project to replace all current combat radio in the British Forces with a highly sophisticated secure voice and data communications system.

### **Clerks Training**

Royal Marines Clerks are responsible for providing cash accounting, personnel and general administrative support throughout the Corps and where appropriate, to other arms and Services. Clerks form the administrative backbone to all units of the RMC. All clerks are computer literate and those at higher level are trained in computer systems management to include data protection and computer security. In the future, RM Clerks will be trained as Information Systems Operators and this role within the RMC will become even more significant.

### **Stores Accountant Training**

Royal Marines Stores Accountants are responsible for obtaining equipment from both military and civilian suppliers and for the subsequent receipt, storing and internal unit distribution. They are trained in both Army and Royal Navy accounting procedures.

### **Combat Intelligence Training**

Royal Marines Combat Intelligence provide vital support to Formation and Unit Intelligence cells. They are trained in intelligence skills and have a comprehensive range of graphical skills, both manual and computer aided. They are skilled in cartography, model making and map overlay production.

In one project Royal Marine Combat Intelligence constructed a terrain model of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia.

### **Service Funds Training**

There is a requirement to train appropriate service personnel in the management of non-public funds; such training is carried out in SCTC. The Service Funds course covers funds associated with Messes, clubs and associations. Double entry book keeping, widely used in the commercial world, is taught together with property management, banking investments, tax, VAT and cash funds.

### **National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)**

Signal and Clerk Training Company is the home of the Branch Advisors for the Signals, Clerks, Stores Accountants and Illustrators branches. They are responsible for advising HQRM on all matters relating to their branch with particular emphasis on the drafting of personnel. Their considerable expertise in their related fields is of great benefit to the staff and students in SCJ7C. They oversee the certification and award of NVQs to all signallers, clerks and store accountants, whose courses are accredited to the NVQ scheme.



# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## **Commando Training Wing**

### **Introduction**

Commando Training Wing (CTW) is responsible for the training of Recruits who wish to become Royal Marines, as well as Army and Naval personnel who volunteer to serve with 3 Commando Brigade. In addition the Wing also undertakes the training of Royal Marines Reservists and Territorial Army volunteers who serve with the Royal Marines.

CTW has a remit to train every Recruit to reach a set standard which must be achieved before a Recruit can pass out of training. While the Wing has a 'pass ethos', there is a degree of self-selection in Recruit training, such that only those with determination, commitment, application and an above average level of physical ability succeed. New entries will find themselves in a troop that is approximately 50 strong. They will be taken through training by a team of instructors that normally consist of: an Officer, a Sergeant and four Corporals from the Platoon Weapons Branch (or from other branches - such as Chef, Landing Craftsman, Signals or Heavy Weapons specialists), a Corporal from the Physical Training Branch and a Corporal from the Drill Leaders Branch. The training team possess a wide range of individual skills, experience, and specialisations, which enhances the Recruits' training.

Training is based on a logical progression, so that the Recruits gain confidence in their own abilities, and are not overwhelmed by it. The successful completion of Recruit Training is within the capabilities of all those who have been selected from the Potential Royal Marines Course and allocated a place at CTCRM.

The training is demanding, challenging and arduous and the workload is considerable. In addition to normal 'working hours' training takes place in the evening, and on some weekends. It should be noted that training takes place regardless of season, weather, light or darkness.

CTW is organised into five companies: Plymouth, Chatham, Portsmouth, Deal and Hunter who operate under the direction of the Wing Headquarters.

### **Wing Headquarters - OC and Plymouth Company**

The Officer Commanding (OC) Commando Training Wing commands the Wing. The Wing headquarters provides support to the training companies in the form of resource allocation, long term planning and administration. Plymouth Company is responsible for the All Arms Commando Course (AACC) as well as the Royal Marines Reserve, Territorial Army (TA), Combined Cadet Force (CCF), and Sea Cadet Corps (SCC) courses.

### **Chatham, Portsmouth and Deal Companies**

These companies are identical in structure and are responsible for recruit troops throughout their training. This means from the day a troop of recruits start Phase 1 training (weeks 1-15), move on to Phase 2 training (weeks 16-32), which includes the Commando Course, right through to the day of the King's Squad Pass Out parade, they are part of one of these companies.



# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## **Hunter Company**

Is responsible for the remedial training of Recruits who have either sustained an injury or, who are struggling with the physical or administrative aspects of the course.

## **The King's Badge & Commando Medal**

### **The King's Badge**

On 7 March 1918, His Majesty King George V visited the Depot Royal Marines, at Deal in Kent. On this occasion he inspected Royal Marines Recruit squads, and took the salute of the 4th Battalion at a March Past. Six weeks later the 4th Battalion were to storm ashore on to the Mole in the raid on Zeebrugge, where they won great fame and two Victoria Crosses.

To mark his visit, His Majesty directed that the senior Recruit squad in Royal Marines training would in future be known as the King's Squad. He also directed that his Royal Cypher, surrounded by a Laurel Wreath, would be known as the King's Badge, and would be awarded to the best all round recruit in the King's Squad, provided that he was worthy of the honour. The badge was to be carried on the left shoulder, and worn in every rank. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was graciously pleased to approve that the custom and privilege of the King's Squad remain unaltered. The King's Badge is not awarded to every squad, and is only presented if a Recruit measures up to the very exacting standards required.

### **The Commando Medal**

The Commando Medal is awarded to any officer or man who shows throughout training that he possesses the following qualities to an outstanding degree:

COURAGE  
UNSELFISHNESS  
CHEERFULNESS UNDER ADVERSITY  
DETERMINATION

These Qualities define the Commando Spirit. If merited, this medal is awarded to one Recruit in each troop or to one member of each successful Commando Course. In exceptional circumstances a second medal may be awarded, but this is rare.

### **Royal Marines Stonehouse**

RM Stonehouse is the base Unit at Royal Marines Barracks Stonehouse. The Unit strength is approximately 120 service personnel, which includes a few members of the Royal Navy and are supported by 50 civilian staff. The Unit tasks are to maintain a high level of security for the Barracks and to provide administrative support for all resident Units within the Barracks. In order to achieve its aims the Unit has several different departments.

Medical and Dental services are provided within the Barracks and the OC Base Squadron Dept has the capacity to deal with clothing, transport, weapons and general stores. The Unit has its own Imprest, Movements and records Dept and the Main Galley is run by 2i/c Base Squadron.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

RM Stonehouse has a comprehensive Education and Resettlement Centre and a dedicated Military Guard Provost Service to guard the establishment.

Stonehouse is also the location of the RN/RM Sailing Centre located at the Camber overlooking Drake Island and Plymouth Sound. The centre provides dinghy, yachting and powerboat training as well as racing and Adventurous Training.

### **ROYAL MARINES Poole**

Up until 1942 the site at Poole was undeveloped and was just open lowland heath, although there was a rifle range there.

29th June 1942 saw the first development of the site when work started on the creation of Royal Air Force Hamworthy which became part of No 19 Group, Coastal Command. It was the central base for No 461 (Royal Australian Air Force) Squadron which was equipped with Sunderland Flying Boats and which carried out anti-submarine and anti-shipping operations. Enemy bombs were dropped on 12th August 1943 but there was no damage. RAF Hamworthy was transferred from Coastal Command to Transport Command on 13th January 1944 and then in February of the same year the site was handed over to the Royal Navy. RAF Station, Hamworthy formally ceased to exist on 1st May 1944.

As a Naval establishment the site was known as HMS Turtle and was used for training personnel for the D-Day Landings. When the war ended the site was closed and was put into mothballs with only a few personnel for basic maintenance.

In 1954 the site was finally taken over by the Royal Marines and was known as the Amphibious School, Royal Marines. It was here that Royal Marine Landing Craft personnel were trained before deployment to the fleet, a role still maintained today. In 1956 the school was expanded and was re-named the Joint Service Amphibious Warfare Centre in October of that year.

The site also became home to 95 Regiment, Royal Artillery which was itself subsequently re-named 95 Forward Observation Unit, Royal Artillery. They provided fire direction for Naval Ships during shore bombardment, again, a role still performed here today by 148 (MEIKTILA) Commando Forward Observation Battery, Royal Artillery. The next change came in 1963 when the Amphibious Warfare Centre moved to Old Sarum and become part of the new Joint Warfare Establishment and the camp was re-named the Amphibious Training Unit, Royal Marines. In 1968 the decision was taken to move Technical Training Wing (responsible for training Drivers, Armourers, Illustrators, Metalsmiths, Carpenters and the like) from Eastney to Poole. This was completed on 20th July, 1973 and on 1st July, that year the camp became Royal Marines Poole – the title it retains today. The rate of change has accelerated in recent years as a result of various government initiatives such as "Options for Change", "Front Line First" and the "Defence Training Review.

October 2001 saw the formation of 1 Assault Group Royal Marines, based at Poole and responsible for Landing Craft training. One of the new unit's roles is to parent all the Royal Marine Assault Squadrons:

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

6 ASRM in HMS Albion and 9 ASRM in HMS Ocean. To strengthen command & control and to realise savings in the area of administration the unit was amalgamated with the Amphibious Trials & Training Unit Royal Marines (ATTURM).

### ROYAL MARINES BAND SERVICE

The original Royal Marines Band Service (RMBS), together with its headquarters, the Royal Naval School of Music, was founded in 1930 to provide Bands for the Royal Navy. The task of forming the school was assigned to the Royal Marines and from then on the Band Service became an integral part of the Royal Marines Corps. Its original home was Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth where it remained until 1930 when it was transferred to the Royal Marines Depot, Deal. After the outbreak of World War II, it moved to Malvern, then it divided with the Junior Wing moving to the Isle of Man and the Senior Wing to Scarborough before reuniting at Burford in 1946 and finally returning to Deal in 1950. The amalgamation of the Divisional Bands with the Royal Naval School of Music to form today's Royal Marines Band Service also took place in 1950 when the headquarters and training establishment were re-named the Royal Marines School of Music.



Today all Royal Marines Bands are required to provide every imaginable musical ensemble including orchestras and dance bands. To achieve this, most musicians, except solo specialists, are required to attain a high standard on both a string and a wind instrument. As a result of this special amalgam of expertise, Royal Marines Musicians are regarded as one of the most versatile in the military musical world.

The Corps of Drums receive an equally thorough training and pride themselves on maintaining the highest standards of drill, bugling and drumming. Their glittering presence at the front of all Royal Marines Bands on the march and gives the bands a visual impact that is second to none.

The Royal Marines School of Music (RMSM) in Portsmouth is where the exacting process of producing military musicians and buglers worthy of the Royal Marines begins. With a very productive link with Portsmouth University, Royal Marines Musicians can now attain civilian qualifications linked to each stage of their training and professional promotion courses. All musicians are eligible to register on a fully funded course, with our partner academic institution, the University of Portsmouth, to gain a BMus (Hons) degree. Male and female students, aged between 16 and 32 are educated in all aspects of music. They are taught by professors of the highest calibre including the celebrated trombonist Don Lusher who also directs the big band.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The students are also instructed in all aspects of military ceremonial in order to ensure that the worldwide reputation enjoyed by the RMBS for both its music and precision marching is maintained. At the School of Music the future of the Band Service, based upon the experience of the past and the professionalism of the present, is forged; here the young instrumentalist is tempered and honed to the sharpest edge before taking his or her place in one of the 5 Royal Marines Bands.



As their careers progress Musicians and Buglers return to the RMSM to undergo further musical training to qualify them for higher rank. This culminates in a place on the Student Bandmasters Course, which is widely recognised as one of the most demanding courses of its type. Students study all the main music disciplines; the orchestral and contemporary wind band repertoire and they work with renowned figures from the world of music including the composer Gordon Langford.

### **The Military Role**

In addition to music making, Royal Marines Musicians and Buglers are trained for a specific military role. Royal Marines Bands were involved in both the Falklands conflict and Operation Granby in the Persian Gulf. In the latter part of 1998, Scotland Band were deployed in HMS OCEAN and assisted in relief work in Nicaragua and Honduras in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. More recently the RMBS distinguished themselves on both Operation Fresco (Fire Strike) and Operation Telic (Iraq) in 2003. Royal Marines Bands continue to fly the flag abroad with many prestigious engagements undertaken including appearances in Turkey, the USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Europe and Australia, to name but a few.

### **The Royal Marines School of Music**

The RMBS is the professional music service of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and as such has an international reputation for the quality and variety of music performed.

The versatility of musicians within the Band Service is of the highest order and each musician is required to perform with the Symphonic Wind Band, Marching Band, Big Band, Dance Band, Symphonic and Salon Orchestra and various chamber groups.

Musicians and Buglers join the RMSM age 16+ and, after the initial 15 weeks military training, start specialist qualification study. This is 2 years and 8 months for Musicians and 24 Months for Buglers.



## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

Training for all musicians and buglers, both male and female, takes place at the School. Each musician or bugler has their own practice room and some practice rooms have been combined to

form larger rooms for ensemble rehearsals. Other facilities include a resource centre, with Internet access and a CD library, computers for music and essay work, a bar/rest area, a large new concert hall and, of course, a parade area for Parade Band practices.

There are also Higher Training Courses at RMSM. These are the Musician 2 Course, a two week course for qualification to Band Corporal, Musician 1, a 12 week course for qualification to Band Sergeant, and the Bandmasters Course, a years intensive study which for RM musicians following the degree study would gain them an externally validated M (Mus).

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## CORPS HISTORY 1664 - 1764

The corps is now 337 years old, which is much older than most army units. We are a small Corps of about 7,000 but we have fame, which is all out of proportion to our size. We stand where we are today because the Corps has been involved in nearly every conflict since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Palestine, Korea, Malaya, Suez, Cyprus, Radfan, Aden, The Falklands, Northern Ireland and the Gulf War. We have seen more active service per head than the rest of the Royal Navy, Army and the Royal Air Force. Any Corps or unit measures itself on the way it conducts itself in battle. This is the ultimate test of Courage, Discipline and Endurance. This is why we retain an abiding and interest in our Corps history. To fully understand, we must go back in time to when the Corps was first formed.

The date, 28<sup>th</sup> October, the year 1664. It was at a meeting of the Privy Council in the palace of Whitehall that King Charles II directed that, "Twelve Hundred land soldiers be forthwith raised, to be in readiness, to be distributed into his Majesty's Fleets prepared for sea service".

The regiment was named "The Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot." as it was raised by command of the Lord Admiral who later became King James II. It was also known as the, "Admiral's Regiment" and was the first of several regiments of marines as they were later called, raised between this time and 1755.

The uniform of the Admiral's Regiments uniform was a yellow tunic with scarlet leggings supposedly the favourite colours of the Duke of York.



When in 1685 James II ascended the throne, the regiment was given to Prince George of Denmark the King's son-in-law. It was during this time that the uniform colour changed to red coats with white stockings.

Four years later in 1689 the Regiment was disbanded and it's men were amalgamated into the Coldstream Guards, a year later however Britain was at war with France and two regiments of Marines were raised under the command of the Earl of Torrington and Pembroke. Their main role was for service with the Fleet in which they succeeded in participating in all major sea battles. When peace was agreed in 1697, the Regiments were reduced and finally disbanded in 1699.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### SIEGE OF GIBRALTAR 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1704

War with France and Spain in 1702 caused parliament to raise six more Marine Regiments. These Regiments played leading roles in battles in Spain, France and North America. Of all their deployments during this war, the capture and defence of Gibraltar in 1704 was their most important. On the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1704 the Prince of Hesse led ashore 1,900 marines who succeeded in isolating the Gibraltar Rock from mainland Spain. The following day after an offer of surrender was refused the British forces bombarded the Spanish fortress. 15,000 shot were expended in the course of five hours.



This was followed the following day with a further bombardment, which lasted six hours, and it was during this time that the Spanish defenders began to crack. After an assault by the 1,900 British and 400 Dutch marines and five days of fighting the rock was finally captured on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 1704.

By October the same year the French Fleet arrived with French and Spanish troops who wasted no time in beginning a fresh assault to recapture the rock. By December the rock was well under siege and the marines numbers were down to only 1,000 men caused by sickness and wounds. The Spanish launched a major assault on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1705 when 1,000 men stormed the round tower, which was only defended by 200 Marines, after fierce hand-to-hand fighting the marines overpowered their enemy. With losses like this and with the French Fleet being beaten in the Bay of Gibraltar they decided to cut their losses and withdrew after an eight-month siege

As our first great battle honour it is the only one shown on our Corps Colour today. The battle is also remembered as a Corps Memorable Date – 24<sup>th</sup> July 1704.

In 1747 the Marines received the cap badge of the Lord High Admiral's badge for recognition of service on HM ships. The "Fouled Anchor" remains part of our cap badge to this day.

Up until now marines had only been used for war and disbanded in peacetime. With the value of having Marines on ships already established senior officers in the Navy campaigned to have Marines as a permanent force. In 1755, after many years of pushing for Marines and the onset of another war with France, 50 companies of marines were formed, approx. 5,000 men. They were formed into the "Grand Divisions" of Plymouth, Chatham and Portsmouth.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### BELLE ISLE 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1761

The island lies off the French coast between Brest and Bordeaux. It had sizeable fortifications and after two failed attempts at landings the Marines finally got ashore. Once ashore and under the cover of fog, they scaled rocks and cliffs that the French thought were impossible to scale. They formed up and captured the French lines, which then ensured the British had a firm foothold on the island. They took part in all subsequent fighting on the island but were most acclaimed for the final storming of the redoubts (forts) on the 7<sup>th</sup> June when they even won the admiration of their enemy. A report on this action read, "...no action of greater spirit and gallantry had been performed during the whole war.

For the gallantry displayed at Belle Isle the Corps was awarded the "Laurel Wreath" which is still worn with pride on our crest today. The war ended in 1763 and Belle Isle was returned to the French. This time however the marines were not disbanded.

### 1765 - 1899

### BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1775

The Seven Year War with France ended in 1763; and so with the French threat to their security removed by British forces the colonists in North America became more and more opposed to the high taxes, which were necessary to fund their protection from the French forces in Canada. This resentment continued to fester, by the spring of 1775, it was ready to break into all out rebellion. As a punishment by Britain, a bill was introduced depriving Boston of the privilege of a port. This restriction raised the spirit of rebellion throughout America and very soon the cry for independence was heard.



Private, Light Company Private, Grenadier Company Officer, Battalion Company  
The Marine Corps 1775  
Background - Boston, Massachusetts, North America

In anticipation of this, and with a view to dampening the flames of revolt, a Marine Battalion was sent to Boston to Reinforce the British garrison. These Marines were to be involved in the first two tragic events, which commenced the American War of Independence. Boston, on the East Coast of America is built upon a peninsula connected to the mainland by a narrow stretch of land. This peninsula had been fortified by the British and was also protected by the guns of HMS Somerset. The land though was weakened considerably by the high ground that dominated the town, to the north lay Bunker Hill and to the south the Dorchester Heights.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

British intelligence suggested that the rebels were training and storing ammunitions at Concord, some twenty miles from Boston. The captain General of the British Forces, General Gage secretly dispatched a force of 800 men including some Marines commanded by Major "Pitcairn" of the Marines to Lexington and Concord to seize and destroy the supplies held there. There was poor secrecy though and a silversmith called "Paul Revere" rode to the rebel's camp and warned them of the British force. By the time Major Pitcairn reached Lexington a force of 500 men had assembled. This confrontation led to the first shots of the American War of Independence being fired. The outcome was the rebels dispersed with some casualties and the British reached Concord and destroyed the supplies.

By June Boston was under siege with 1,200 rebels fortified on Bunker Hill. Preparations were made to assault the rebel position. The first wave of the British attack advanced towards the rebel lines. They reached to within 50 yards of the enemy when they were met with such an accurate deluge of fire that they turned and fled. The force was re-organized and a second attack followed 15 minutes later. Again the weight of fire stopped them and they retreated to the base of the hill. By now the 1st Marines reinforced the force. Another wave of attack began with the Marines fixing bayonets and advancing in line behind the 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Again the leading companies began to falter when hit with the accurate rebel fire. When it seemed this third wave was doomed to failure. It was at this time that Major Pitcairn gave the cry to push on. The reply was, "*we cannot, their fire is too heavy*", Pitcairn's reply was simple; "*then break ranks and let the marines through*"

The feeble Battalion melted away and the warriors of the deep, trained in conflict of hand to hand sprang forward with a loud shout in their places. Advancing forward they released a final volley before rushing the enemy parapet and engaging the rebels with rifle butts and cold steel. The Americans retreated and the marines took the position; with losses of 450 Americans and 1,045 British troops. The Marines lost 29 killed and 94 wounded.

A report on the battle read;

*"The reputation of the Marines was never more notably sustained. Their unshaken steadiness was conspicuous and their valour in closing with the enemy when part of the attack column wavered, gained them not only the admiration of their comrades but the commendation of their distinguished chiefs"*

It was during this battle that the motto "PER MARE, PER TERRAM" was first used

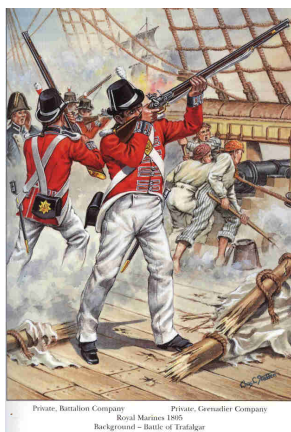
The first event to concern the Corps during the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century happened on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1802, when King George III bestowed the title of "ROYAL" to the Marines. This added the Lion & Crown to the cap badge of the new Royal Marines and signified them as a Royal Regiment. "*In 1802 the Corps turned blue.*"

### **BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 1805**

At ten to six on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1805, off Cape Trafalgar in the south of Spain, Napoleon's French and Spanish Fleet was sighted against the dawn sky and the men of the British Fleet, who were not on watch, swarmed up on the deck to observe.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

For more than two years of patrolling, blockading Napoleons ports, the horizon at every dawn had been empty.



Now in eager anticipation, they counted the enemy sail:

*Twenty...twenty-five...thirty...thirty-three of them plus two frigates amongst them,* stretching in a column of five miles long and they were heading for the Straits of Gibraltar.

There was seventeen thousand men in the British Fleet, of which, 2,692 were Royal Marines Officers and Marines. This fleet slowly crawled towards the French/Spanish.

At 06:40hrs, the British Commander, Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson signalled for his fleet to form into two columns and prepare for battle. With the wind behind them they made good progress towards the French. The French Commander, Admiral Villeneuve, seeing that action was imminent signalled for his fleet to turn back to the Spanish port of Cadiz. With the wind now beginning to fade the French line took a considerable time to bear round. This meant that not only had it reversed its direction but it was also in complete disorder. The British slowly closed in on their enemy headed by the flagships, "*Victory and Royal Sovereign*"

The first shots were fired around mid-day by the French ship "Fougueux" aimed at Admiral Collingswood's ship the royal Sovereign, which was steering towards the Spanish ship the "Santa-Ana". The next few minutes were crucial, if the French and Spanish gunnery were good then the British would be blown out of the water before being able to manoeuvre themselves into position to return fire effectively. The British Fleet then broke into the French line and the battle turned into several small skirmishes between individual ships. Although the French/Spanish were brave enough they did not have the gunnery skills or the quality of individual commanders that their British counterparts had. The Royal Sovereign passed between the Santa-Ana and the Fougeux, firing both port and starboard guns simultaneously and apparently killing 400 men in that one broadside alone. In unison with this move Nelson's ship the Victory made her approach to battle. It was 12:20hrs when she received her first incoming shots, which ripped, through her main topgallant sail. With their range now found the French brought down a considerable amount of fire upon the Victory. During her long approach she suffered terribly. At 12:59hrs, the ship then passed the French ship "Bucentaure" and at last could begin to return fire. The salvo that followed wrecked the stern of the Bucentaure, wounded almost 400 of her men and dismounted twenty of her guns. The price the victory paid though was high with Dr. Scott, the Victory's chaplain describing the scene as a butcher's shambles.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

One by one, the other ships followed into action and for the next three hours, the battle raged ferociously. Under the fire of British guns, the enemy ships began to drop out of action.

It was during this time that Nelson fell; struck by a bullet from an enemy sharpshooter. Sgt. Secker and two marines gently raised Nelson into their arms and carried him to the cockpit. At the entrance to the cockpit Dr. Beatty, the surgeon and Mr. Burke the purser lifted Nelson from the marines and laid him against the ships side. For the next hour, Nelson lay quietly in the cockpit, comforted by the ships doctor and Mr. Burke who kept him informed on how the battle was going. It was here that Captain Hardy arrived to congratulate Nelson on certain victory. In recent years, the famous scene of the Admiral asking Hardy to kiss him has become more a subject of laughter than of tears. It was Hardy though that Nelson loved like a brother and no other scene can be more fitting to the moment than when the Captain bent over and kissed Nelson's forehead.

At 16:30hrs, Admiral Nelson died.

Nelson's victory had been granted. Of the thirty-three ships, eighteen were captured, four escaped and the remainder reached Cadiz but were never put to sea again. The British casualties consisted of 1,700 killed and wounded. Of the 2,692 Royal Marines, four officers and 113 men were killed with thirteen officers and 212 men wounded. Nelson was buried at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 1806 at 17:44hrs. His remains were lowered into a crypt, with the last words, *"His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth for evermore"*.

The next significant event in the Corps history was to happen in 1827 when King George IV awarded the *"Great Globe"* to replace the 109 battle honours won by the Corps up till then. The globe to this day remains part of our cap badge.

The end of the Napoleonic wars ushered in a long period of British peace broken only in the middle of the century by the Crimean War and by various Imperial campaigns and disturbances. As just mentioned the major conflict that the Corps was involved with after Trafalgar was the Crimean. This happened in 1854 and lasted for two years.

This war was a war in which men performed more valiant deeds than one could humanly expect from them; it was a war in which the conditions in which they fought in were gruesome in the extreme. Casualties were extremely high, more so than they should have been with many falling victim to cold and disease.

It was the war of Florence Nightingale and of the Victoria Cross, which had now been instituted. Three Victoria Crosses were awarded to members of the Corps during the Crimean War

### **CORPORAL JOHN PRETTYJOHN**

The Corps first V.C. was awarded to Cpl. John Prettyjohn at the Battle of Inkerman on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1854, when on after clearing an area of enemy with his section he placed himself in an advanced position and personally fought off a Russian counter-attack ordering his men to throw stones as their ammunition had been expended.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### **BOMBARDIER THOMAS WILKINSON**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 1855, Bdr. Thomas Wilkinson was recommended for gallantry. Under extreme heavy fire during the Siege of Sebastopol, he replaced sandbags and rebuilt his batteries defences, which had been destroyed by enemy artillery. For this he was awarded the Corps second Victoria Cross.

### **LIEUTENANT GEORGE DARE DOWELL**

During the same conflict but off Russia's Baltic coast Lt. George Dare Dowell won the third V.C. Dowell proceeded to save a rocket boat and it's crew whilst under heavy fire from both banks of the Viborg River. The Victoria Cross itself is made from Chinese cannons, which were captured from the Russians at the Siege of Sebastopol.

The ribbons were originally blue for sea/naval conflicts and maroon for land. The bracket is pressed with the laurel wreath with the hinge in the shape of a "V" for valour. The lion and crown signifies the "Royal" connection with Queen Victoria. It was originally to bear the inscription "For the Bravest", however Queen Victoria herself disapproved remarking, "*All my soldiers and sailors are brave*". The two honoured words "For Valour" were substituted.

During the remainder of the century the Corps was to see action around the globe, whilst deployed in Egypt the Marines saw the formation of the "Royal Marines Camel Corps". This once more demonstrating the versatility of the Corps.

## 1900 - 1938

### **BOXER REBELLION**

As the century turned and 1900 came, Britain was embroiled in two campaigns across the globe. The first was to see the Corps in action in China in an attempt to quell the unrest, which was to lead to the "Boxer Rebellions". The main brunt of Marine action was to be seen at Peking where nationals from several European countries and their military contingents were fortified inside an area of the city known as the "*Legations*". Here barricaded in, they faced attack by the "*Boxers*", a secret society who believed themselves invulnerable to bullets and death. For two months the small force, which consisted of US Marines as well as Royal Marines, withstood the continual onslaught of the Boxers.



Captain and Private, Legation Guard  
The Royal Marine Light Infantry 1900  
Background - British Legation, Peking, China

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The besieged Legation was eventually relieved when an international force of 20,000 from several allied countries fought through to Peking in turn destroying the Boxer movement.

### **CAPTAIN LEWIS STRATFORD TOLLEMACHE HALLIDAY**

During this siege the Corps was to be awarded it's fourth VC, which was won by Capt. Lewis Stratford Tollemache Halliday. Captain Halliday led a sortie of twenty marines in an attempt to repel a Boxer attack. Being severely wounded in the action, he urged his men to continue with the attack as he made his own way back to seek medical attention, this in spite of a punctured lung as a result of one of the enemy bullets. For this he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

### **BOAR WAR**

The second engagement the Corps was involved with at the turn of the century was in South Africa fighting the "Boer War" During this war small Marine detachments of the Naval Brigade became part of a very large British Army engagement. The enemy, the Boers of the Republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were revolting against British influence in South Africa. This was a full-scale war of bitter battles and great gallantry on both sides, but from a Marine point of view mention must be made of the attack on Graspen. Here a company of the R.M.L.I. and R.M.A. attacked Kopje. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, The author of Sherlock Holmes, thus described this incident.

*"It was on these gallant Marines, the men who are ready to fight anywhere and anyhow, moist or dry, that the heaviest losses fell. When at last they made good their foothold upon the crest of that murderous hill they left behind them 3 officers and 88 men out of a total of 206, a loss within a few minutes of nearly 50% of their strength."*

The battle, to this day is commemorated with the "Graspen Memorial" in London.

During the war in South Africa the Boar's organized themselves into highly mobile mounted columns, which harassed the British Army. These assault groups the Boar's called "Kommandos" from which name, stems our own modern terminology. With the Commando idea originating in South Africa, the Africaans song, "Sarie Marais" has been adapted as the march of the Royal Marines Commandos.

After the Boar War the early years of the new century proved to be a peaceful time for the Marines. At this time the Royal Marines Band Service was instituted. The rating of "Bandsman" had existed since 1847 but it was on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1903 the Royal Naval School of Music was established and the band service was constituted as an official part of the Royal Marine forces. It should also be noted that the since it's formation the Band Service as a branch of the Corps has suffered, proportionally the heaviest casualties in action throughout the two world wars which followed.

### **THE BRUNSWICK STAR**

The "*Brunswick Star*" is the name given to the helmet plate worn on the white Wolsey Pattern helmets worn for ceremonial duties and probably more familiar to you by the Royal Marines Band. The name derives from the officers and men of the Kings German Legion (the Brunswicks) who wore a similar shaped plate during the Napoleonic Wars.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION



The Brunswick Star worn today was first issued in 1905 on the express command of King Edward VII, when he granted the R.M.L.I. and R.M.A. the unique privilege of wearing the White WP Helmet. The plate carries all the hallmarks of the Corps – the Globe, the Laurels, “Gibraltar”, the Anchor, the Crown and the Corps Motto.

## WORLD WAR I

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1914 Germany invaded Belgium. Britain in response demanded an immediate withdrawal. This ultimatum was ignored and Britain then declared war against Germany on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914. During the four years that were to follow the Corps was to distinguish it-self considerably. At the outbreak of war Royal Marines were quickly mobilized and sent to Ostend and later Antwerp. Marines defended Ostend with the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill at their side.

Although casualties were high the marine’s actions at both ports diverted the enemy long enough for the British Army to move northwards and extend their flank to form the infamous “French Front”



Officer, Corporal and Marine Privates  
Royal Marine Light Infantry (Plymouth Battalion)  
Background – Ostend, Belgium 29th August 1914

## GALLIPOLI

After months of fighting on the French Front and no gains made by either side, Britain and her allies turned their attention elsewhere for success. Russia was in need of military aid and supplies as Turkey who had now joined the war on the German side was attacking Russia’s southern flank. Defending this flank was using up vital troops, which could have been used on the Western Front. It was then decided that the allies should attack the “GALLIPOLI PENINSULA”.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

Throughout the war the Royal Marines were in the thick of battle. In the spring of 1915, four R.M.L.I Battalions, one each from Chatham, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Deal formed the 3rd Royal Marine Brigade as part of the Royal Naval Division.

In March that year these men set sail only knowing they were heading for the Eastern Mediterranean. The Royal Marines were then given the task of making an amphibious assault on the Turkish peninsular of "*Gallipoli*".

This involved taking the forts, which guarded the narrow Dardanelles seaway, which provided the Royal Navy with free access to Constantinople.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915, Plymouth Battalion R.M.L.I took part in the initial landing on "Y" Beach, whilst the remainder of the Brigade reinforced the Australians at ANZAC Cove on the night of 28<sup>th</sup>. Allied troops were slaughtered on the beaches by determined Turkish defenders and never managed to advance far inland. Royal Marines were to experience all the horrors of life and fighting in trenches as the stalemate similar to the French Front set in. Fighting was fierce and the heat quickly decayed bodies lying on the battlefields. A plague of flies caused disease during the summer months, which soon worsened by the fact the men had no fresh water or basic sanitation. With casualties mounting and the onset of winter the campaign was abandoned some nine months later in January 1916.

The cost – 36,400 Allied and 86,000 Turks dead.

As so often the Royal Marines had the doubtful privilege of being the rear-guard and were eventually withdrawn from the Gallipoli Peninsula on the night of 8<sup>th</sup> January 1916 having being the first to land in a raid on a Turkish fort in February 1915.

Hence: "First in. Last out."

### **LANCE CORPORAL WALTER RICHARD PARKER**

A stretcher-bearer, L/Cpl Walter Richard Parker R.M.L.I won the Corps a Victoria Cross, which might have equally have been awarded, to scores of marines in this period.

On the night of 1<sup>st</sup> May, a message asking for ammunition, water and medical stores was received from an isolated fire trench at Gaba Tepe. A party of NCOs and men were detailed to carry water and ammo and in response to a call for a volunteer from among the stretcher-bearers, L/Cpl Parker at once came forward.

To reach this trench it was necessary to traverse an area of 400yds, which was completely exposed and continually swept by heavy machine-gun fire. It was almost daylight when the party emerged from their trench; they were obliterated in moments except Parker who alone reached the trench. Here he helped tend the many wounded and then organized the breakout back to safety for the few survivors. The trench was evacuated with L/Cpl Parker assisting in the removal of the wounded even though he himself was seriously wounded during this operation. For this he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

### **BATTLE OF JUTLAND**

As well as action on land the Royal Marines saw some considerable action at sea. On board the Marines were required to operate one of the ships main gun turrets and also provide ammunition parties.

Whenever British ships were in battle Royal Marines would be there. This was true for the greatest naval battle of the whole of the war, "The Battle of Jutland". The battle on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1916 was fought in the North Sea and involved a total of 258 vessels from the British and German Fleets.

### **MAJOR FRANCIS JOHN WILLIAM HARVEY**

Early during the battle the British flagship H.M.S. Lion was hit. It was during this action that the Corps won it's next V.C, which was won by Major Francis John William Harvey R.M.L.I

Major Harvey, was in charge of the Royal Marine Detachment on board HMS Lion. He was in "Q" turret when it took a direct hit killing most of the crew manning the gun. The explosion also caused a fire in the turret, which threatened to spread to the magazine, which was below the gun (if this was to happen then the ship would certainly be destroyed).

Major Harvey although severely wounded took charge of the situation and ordered the flooding of the magazines, this action certainly saved the ship and many of the ship's crew. Harvey though was not to be one of the survivors; he was killed when he was caught in another explosion inside the turret. For his actions at the Battle of Jutland he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

### **FRENCH FRONT**

#### **MAJOR FREDERICK WILLIAM LUMSDEN**

Although most of the action appears to be with the R.M.L.I. the Royal Marine Artillery played its part during the war manning Howitzers and field guns of various calibers. An officer of the R.M.A., Major Frederick William Lumsden was awarded the Corps next Victoria Cross whilst serving on the French Front. At the time, April 1917 he was tasked with the capture of six enemy field guns, which were to be re-positioned in the British lines. The guns which, Lumsden was tasked to recover were under heavy fire from the Germans. He personally led four artillery teams and a party of infantry through the hostile barrage. On reaching the guns he sent two teams back with guns, he himself went through the barrage with the team on the third gun. He then returned to the guns to await the other teams, and with these he succeeded in recovering another two of the guns to safety.

By this time the enemy had driven through and blown up the breach of the remaining gun. Major Lumsden then returned, drove off the enemy and returned with the final gun.

For this he was awarded the Victoria Cross. With an operational CB to his name and three DSOs this made him the Corps highest decorated Officer.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### ZEEBRUGGE

During the last year of the war the Allies were suffering heavy losses through German submarines. To reduce the threat a plan was approved for an attack on Zeebrugge and Ostend. The plan, to prevent the passage of submarines was simple enough – to sink block ships in the channel and render it un-navigatable. The only problem though was how to get the block ships into position as a long projecting mole rising 30ft protects the port of Zeebrugge.

Along the mole were a number of German batteries, three 4.1 guns at the seaward end and a number of smaller 3.2 inch guns closer towards the harbour end. These guns had to be silenced if the block ships were to reach Zeebrugge. The plan was then set whereby a Royal Marines unit would be landed on the mole in order to destroy the guns and eliminate the German troops, thus ensuring a safe passage for the ships to reach their allotted positions for sinking. HMS Vindictive, an old cruiser was specially adapted for this purpose. In her was to sail the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion R.M.L.I, which was raised and trained especially for the mission.

During this training period, King George V inspected the Battalion and was so impressed that he directed that the senior squad under training should in future be designated “The Kings Squad” and that the best all round recruit should be styled “The Kings Badgeman” and wear the Royal Cypher upon his shoulder through-out his service.

On the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> April, HMS Vindictive sailed from Dover and crossed the Channel under the cover of darkness. She approached Zeebrugge slightly after midnight on St. George’s Day 1918. On being discovered by the enemy she came under extremely heavy shellfire.

By 00:15hrs she was alongside the mole slightly away from the planned landing point. The cruiser had already been heavily hit and smashed by shells, all but two of the bows over which the troops were to cross onto the mole were destroyed. Casualties began to mount. As the two effective gangways were lowered the demolition parties rushed ashore followed immediately by the platoons of the Portsmouth and Plymouth companies.

The action along the mole had begun under intense enemy fire. The operation was proving to be a success, as while the assault on the mole was being conducted the block ships had steamed into the channel and were scuttled according to plan. The withdrawal was sounded and the marines tried desperately to extract from the mole. During this stage of the operation more men were killed than during the disembarkation phase. Vindictive eventually pulled away and steamed slowly back to Dover. The attack on Zeebrugge had been a success, but the Germans were able to resume sailing almost immediately. Never the less a glorious page of history was written by the men of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Marines.

Two Victoria Crosses were awarded to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion during the Zeebrugge actions. To decide exactly who should receive these medals the men who took part in the battle were balloted for their vote under Rule 13 of the Royal Warrant

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### **CAPTAIN EDWARD BAMFORD**

Captain Edward Bamford RMLI was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions that day upon the mole. He led his company by example and total disregard for his own safety, which resulted with an assault upon one of the German batteries.

### **SERGEANT NORMAN AUGUSTUS FINCH**

Sergeant Norman Augustus Finch RMA won the other Victoria Cross. He was the second-in-command of the Pom-Pom and Lewis guns in the upper decks of the Vindictive.

At one point the ship was being hit every few seconds, mostly in these upper decks which caused many casualties within the cover group. Unfortunately the group were hit with two direct hits which killed or disabled all except Sgt. Finch who was, however severely wounded. Showing great courage he managed to keep up continuous fire upon the enemy on the mole. The foretop was hit again, which this time rendered all the machine guns useless. Before this final explosion Sgt. Finch had shown extreme bravery and his actions undoubtedly saved lives. After Zeebrugge allied fortunes began to turn with new offensives on the Western Front in the late summer. Marines participated with the infantry in the final defeat of Germany's land forces and on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 every Marine rejoiced in victory.

### **POST WWII**

Ever since the end of the war and the urgent need for economy saving measures, cut backs in the armed forces was a priority. Abolition of the Royal Marines Corps had been considered along with several other possibilities, the result though, was that the two branches of the Corps, the *blue marine* of the Royal Marines Artillery and the *red marine* of the Royal Marines Light Infantry be amalgamated to form the "ROYAL MARINES"

Although the war was over this brought little peace to the Corps.

Marines were involved during the revolutions in Russia, Ireland and Turkey.

These though were only minor compared to the problems, which were to arise when Adolf Hitler rose to power in the new Nazi Germany and the world was to face a new level of war, which had never been seen before. Once more the Corps distinguished itself on both land and sea during one of the bloodiest wars witnessed by mankind.

With Victoria Crosses won in every theater of war, (Gallipoli, French Front, and on HM Ships) the men and officers of the R.M.L.I and R.M.A maintained the values and traditions set by their forefathers in previous wars, demonstrating courage, loyalty and devotion to duty no matter how harsh the conditions.

During the next period we will be following the Corps as it was deployed to the four corners of the earth to participate in actions against Hitler's Nazi Army. Lasting from 1939 to 1945 this was to see the introduction of the Commandos and the coveted Green Beret.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## 1939 - 1945

As touched upon during the last period, the Royal Marines had seen considerable action all over the world. They had fought with great distinction, and had won the admiration of their comrades-in-arms but on many occasions their enemy. This however was not enough to prepare them for the war, which was to begin in 1939 when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Army invaded Poland. Britain demanded a withdrawal however the deadline expired at 11am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and so began World War II. With five years of constant war there are many actions and individual acts which merit a mention. During this period though we will be concentrating on the main events, which befell the Corps. This will mainly consist of the two Corps memorable dates from the Second World War along with the origins of the “*Green Beret & the Commandos*”.

### **CORPORAL THOMAS PECK HUNTER**

Before we begin this part mention must be made of the gallant actions, which led to the award of the Corps only Victoria Cross during WWII. Cpl. Thomas Peck Hunter won the honour during the Battle of Lake Comacchio in northern Italy. He was in charge of a Bren gun group for 43 Commando, which were advancing towards the German lines. He was within 400yards of his objective when he saw that the enemy was holding a group of houses to his front. Realizing that the troops behind him were in the open, and that the ground afforded little cover, he seized the machine gun and charged across 200yds of open ground. German Spandaus opened fire from the houses while mortars fired at the troop behind. Attracting most of the fire, Corporal Hunter demoralized the enemy in the houses by his accurate fire from the hip, and he was able to run through the building capturing six Germans and putting the others to flight. The troop behind him dashed forward and became a target from other enemy machine gun fire. Again offering himself as a target, shouting encouragement and calling for more ammunition whilst giving covering fire, he was eventually hit in the head by a burst of machine gun fire and died instantly. Corporal Hunter’s actions enabled his troop to make their final objective before he was killed. Throughout the operation, his magnificent courage, leadership and cheerfulness had been an inspiration to his comrades. It may seem strange that only one Marine should gain the highest award during the war.



C. Troop - 43 Royal Marine Commando  
Corporal Tom Hunter Winning The Victoria Cross  
Lake Comacchio, Italy, 1945

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The answer though is simple enough, without in any way detracting from the gallantry of those who won their VC's in earlier campaigns, the decoration was definitely more easily come by during the first half of it's history than more recent. The number of VC's for example won during the Crimean war, compared to World War II bears no relationship, with many deserving acts of bravery going unnoticed.

### **NORMANDY LANDINGS (D-DAY)**

Over 17,500 Royal Marines took part in the greatest combined operation of all time, which was launched, in the early hours of 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944. This day was allies' assault on mainland Europe the day was "D-Day". The Corps was present in strength on the beaches and in the supporting ships of the fleet with most of the landing craft being manned by Royal Marines. Royal Marine infantrymen stormed ashore at point after point along the beaches which names are now historical, "*Gold, Sword and Juno*".

Five Royal Marines Commandos, (41, 45, 46, 47 and 48) were landed during the assault phase, grouped with three Army Commandos into two Special Service Brigades.

The first 48hrs of the operation were critical involving a sea-borne assault against a heavily protected and strongly held coastline. Most of the R.M. Commandos were ashore by 09:00hrs and had achieved their objectives by early on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. The task of the 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Brigade (45 R.M. CDO) was at the extreme eastern end of the beaches where it secured the crossings over the River Orme. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade comprising of 41, 46, 47 and 48 R.M. Commandos landed along the main beaches. 41 and 48 had a war of their own in a gap between the British and Canadian lines where there was every possibility of the Germans holding a wedge, from which their Panzers might later exploit. After stiff resistance though the marines finally captured Langrune and the Douvres wireless station. 47 Commando landed on the extreme right, or the western edge of the British assault, it was here that they performed a remarkable feat; after a long fighting march westward far beyond the British invasion they captured the heavily defended key port of "*Port en Bassin*".

The Corps thus played a leading role in the establishment of secure beachheads from which subsequent operations to defeat the German Army in the west were developed. Nine officers and 85 men were killed in action on 6<sup>th</sup> June; the number wounded is not known. The following gallantry awards were awarded to Royal Marines during the Normandy Campaign, most of them for actions on the 6<sup>th</sup>: five DSO, three OBE, thirteen DSC, ten MC, one CGM, twenty-six DSM and thirteen MM.

### **WALCHEREN**

Despite their undoubted achievements during more than four years of war the Corps, had as yet, not reached their most memorable day of the conflict. This though was to come on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1944 on the island of Walcheren. After five months of advance from the beaches of Normandy the Allied armies ground to a halt. This was due to the fact that the supplies could not keep up with the speedy rate of the ground forces. A major port was needed by the Allies to ease this problem. Ironically the British held the second largest port on the European mainland but could not use it.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

Antwerp in Belgium lies on the estuary of the River Scheldt; the problem though is that the river is flanked by the islands of Walcheren and South Beveland. Both these islands were in the hands of the Germans, which made their capture essential to the successful ending of the war. The Army was tasked with South Beveland the Marines, Walcheren. Walcheren is a low-lying island secured against the sea by huge dykes. At its western most seaward point lies the town of Westkappelle.

Prior to the marine assault the RAF breached these sea defences flooding much of the island. One such breach was made at Westkappelle; since to attack the high wall itself, bristling with guns would clearly be suicidal it was through this breach the marines centred their assault. The leading troops, which took part in the assault, were 41, 47 and 48 R.M. Commandos along with No. 4 Army Commando. In the early hours of 1<sup>st</sup> November 1944 the assaulting craft advanced through the thick mist towards the island. Edging closer, riding on an unpleasant swell the commandos were crammed into landing craft of all types, manned by a few sailors but mostly marines. The initial plan to assault with air cover was grounded due to the thick fog, and this in turn brought the responsibility for fire support on the shoulders of *HMS Warspite* and two monitor patrol vessels, which were specially adapted, and equipped with medium gun turrets. Their function was to shoot the commando assault through the breach, and then engage the German guns at close range, thereby drawing the fire away from the commando assault onto themselves. It was known that the normal practice of German artillery was to engage the targets, which it could see to be firing, irrespective of the tactical situation. This happened as always and the German guns hammered the vessels.

The casualties were extremely heavy, but under the cover of this distraction 41, 47 and 48 commandos assaulted the island and landed on both sides of the dyke Hitler had ordered his troops that the island was to be held at all costs, and in response they had defended the island with some formidable defences. With very little cover from the flat, featureless terrain the Allied forces again and again ran into German machine-gun cross fire. Inevitably the casualties were high however after some day's heavy fighting the result was a complete success. Walcheren was captured; the port of Antwerp opened and again the Allied Armies gained momentum in their advance towards Berlin.

As well as fighting in Europe the Corps played a major part in the actions against the Japanese Army in the Far East. 42 and 44 Commandos R.M. formed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commando Brigade where they performed a number of operations in Burma, before the Atomic Bomb fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Although skimming through the Corps actions during the Second World War it should never be forgotten that action was also seen in Singapore, Madagascar, Dieppe, Sicily and the Italian mainland as well as the rest of Europe.

### OTHER EVENTS IN WWII

The two other events that must be mentioned are the formation of the Commando concept and the raid on the port of Bordeaux by a group of ten men known today as the "*Cockleshell Heroes*".

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### THE COMMANDOS

During the early years of the WWII, the United Kingdom stood alone and Winston Churchill as Prime Minister saw the need for a moral booster. He therefore ordered the formation of the Commandos to carry out raids against the coast of Europe and keep the Germans occupied.

This was a traditional role for the Royal Marines, but their existing commitments of providing manpower for sea-going detachments and infantry brigades prevented them from taking the task and the Army adopted the concept. By the end of the war the Army had formed 13 Commandos plus one or two specialist Commando Units, which served with distinction in all theatres. A Royal Marines Commando was formed in 1942 and first saw action at Dieppe where the casualties were particularly high. Soon afterwards the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was converted to a Commando and these two units were then numbered 40 and 41 (R.M.) Commandos. The following year, the remaining Royal Marines Battalions went through the Commando Training Centre at Achnacarry in the highlands of Scotland, this saw the formation of 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47 R.M. Commandos. After the war parliament announced that the Army Commandos were to be disbanded and that this particular fighting role was to be a specialization of the Royal Marines who were, *“fully qualified by their long tradition and history to carry out the special role”*

### 1946 - 1970

After World War II parliament transferred the commando role solely to the Royal Marines. Of this only a single brigade was retained, 3 Commando Brigade, then in Hong Kong; the commandos assigned to the brigade were 44(R.M.) Commando – which became the new 40 Commando – 42 Commando and 45 Commando. These three units have written a majority of the Corps history, during a time, which many have seen as been peaceful, this though couldn't be further from the truth.

### PALESTINE

The situation of conflict between Jew and Arab in Palestine had been a source of unrest since the 1930s. The Royal Marines played a full part in policing this unhappy episode that was not resolved until 1948 when the independent state of Israel was founded. All three Commandos were despatched to Palestine as reinforcements to aid in the final British withdrawal, although 45 Commando left after only a fortnight. 40 Commando assumed responsibility for the security of the docks in Haifa and whilst covering the final withdrawal, were the final unit to leave.

### MALAYA

The same year 1948, a state of emergency was declared in Malaya when a rebellion against British rule broke out. The continuing crisis prompted 3 Commando Brigade who were now in Hong Kong to be deployed in 1950. The Brigade was tasked to cover 8,000 square miles of jungle. Jungle patrol techniques were perfected with deeper and longer penetrations being supplied by airdrops and by helicopters, which also flew out casualties. Good training, an eye for the ground and firm leadership enabled the Corps to keep down casualties to 30, whilst accounting for over 200 hard-core terrorists. It was a slow process but by the spring of 1952 the British forces and police were in control and the Brigade was then withdrawn.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### KOREA

As a result of their commitment in Malaya, no Royal Marines units were available to deploy when the communist North Korean troops invaded South Korea in June 1950.

The American command in Korea requested the raising of forces to attack the enemy lines of communication, and since 3 Commando Brigade had only just deployed in Malaya where it was fully committed, this led to the rising of a volunteer unit from the Royal Marines. This took the form of the 300 strong 41 (Independent) Commando, formed at Bickleigh Barracks on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1950.

Raids were soon under way; with commando style raids being put to good use destroying enemy transport routes and communications links. With China's intervention in the conflict the United Nations forces were soon heavily outnumbered and were slowly pushed back. Serving under the command of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Marine Division, 41 Commando along with the USMC units were cut off in Haguru-Ri and had to fight their way out which they did successfully though at some cost 41' lost 70 men of the 200 who set out. Their action that day though, further fostered the long-standing regard between the Corps and the U.S. Marines. The unit was later awarded the American Presidential Unit Citation for their actions.

### CYPRUS

After the military coup in Egypt in 1953, the Commando Brigade spent a year protecting vital installations in the Suez Canal Zone until they were pulled back to Malta when troubled flared up in Cyprus. The EOKA movement was actively seeking the island's independence from British rule and unification with Greece. 42 Commando had returned to the UK, but both 40 and 45 Commandos deployed to Cyprus for peacekeeping duties in 1955.

### EGYPT

On 26<sup>th</sup> July 1956 Egypt seized the Suez Canal. After political discussions, a military plan "*Operation Musketeer*" was put together to regain control and the Commando Brigade was withdrawn from Cyprus to Malta where it was joined by 42 Commando, to prepare for the full-scale sea and airborne assault on Port Said. On 6<sup>th</sup> November the sea-borne assault landed, with 40 and 42 Commandos fighting their way through the city with armoured support. Meanwhile some 20 helicopters took off from HMS Ocean and HMS Theseus to land 45 Commando ashore in what was to be the first ever helicopter assault operation. In a day of street fighting Port Said was seized and the Royal Marines linked up with the other British units to complete the operation. After the cease-fire the commandos were withdrawn having suffered 69 casualties.

### BORNEO AND MALAYA

When a revolt broke out in Brunei in northwest Borneo in December 1962, "L" Company, 42 Commando arrived by air from Singapore. Assisted by sailors from two coastal minesweepers they sailed up river to *Limbang*, where they rescued the British Resident, his wife and several other Europeans who had been seized by the rebels. 40 Commando landed from HMS Albion to follow up and the revolt was crushed. The revolt in Brunei led to the Indonesian confrontation and for the next three years Royal Marines Commandos were intermittently deployed to Borneo and Malaya to counter raids by Indonesian backed rebels.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

### **ADEN AND KUWAIT**

In the meantime, in 1960, 45 Commando relieved an Army Battalion in Aden. Here the three companies revolve between routine training in Little Aden, internal security duties in Aden and peacekeeping patrols near the Yemen border 80 miles to the north. This was only to be the beginning of a seven-year tour for the unit who would remain in the country until the withdrawal in 1967. In 1961 Iraq lay claim to Kuwait and assembled an armoured force on the border. Responding to a request from the Emir, HMS Bulwark with 42 Commando made for the Persian Gulf and arrived just before 45 Commando, which was airlifted from Aden, when reinforcements arrived Iraq withdrew and 45 returned to Aden. In 1963 tribesmen in the Radfan started giving trouble and the following year violence also broke out in the town of Aden. 45 Commando found itself operating on two fronts for much of the remainder of its time there. Eventually, as the British withdrawal from Aden was underway, 45 departed by air on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1967.

### **NORTHERN IRELAND**

In 1969, 41 Commando was serving as the British Army's "*Spearhead*" battalion and was sent to Belfast when rioting had broke out. Little internal security equipment existed in those early days and the marines were largely unprotected. The following year 1970 saw the Corps begin the first of many tours in the Province.

By 1970 the Royal Marines stood at 633 officers and 7,515 other ranks, about 800 of whom were in the Royal Marines Band Service. 45 Commando were stationed in Scotland, from where they had the specialised role, acting as NATO's northern flank and responsible for the area of Norway adjacent to Murmansk, the largest Soviet military and naval base in the world.

## **1970 – PRESENT DATE**

Due to the versatility of the Royal Marines, as a Corps they have been given a whole host of tasks to carry out since the 1970s, both on operational duties and in training. Indeed one of the reasons the Corps is chosen for these tasks is that no extra training is needed to carry them out, as the Motto states "By Sea By Land".

From the streets of Belfast to the Sub Zero temperatures of Norway, the winning back of the Falklands to the aid of Kurdish refugees in Iraq, the Corps has carried these tasks out with the greatest of success.

### **NORTHERN IRELAND**

Since the beginning of the current conflict Royal Marines have been deployed on internal security duties in the province on a regular basis. The first unit to be deployed was 41 Cdo in the September of 1969, the unit was deployed in West Belfast, This was a six week emergency deployment in which the Marines were used mostly to police riots.

Due to the Corps reputation of controlled aggression the powers that be thought the Royal Marines could play a big part in the fight against terrorism and in the 70s the Corps was in Ireland no fewer than seven out of the ten years.



## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

In 1972 40 Cdo were deployed on a four month tour and 45 Cdo were deployed on a short term emergency tour to take part in operations "Motorman", on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 22,00 troops moved into the "No Go Areas", removing barricades which had been hindering security forces. These units played a full part in the operations which was a success. Very quickly the Corps had established itself well within the province, carrying out rural tours in South Armagh and East Tyrone and also city tours in East and West Belfast. The Corps has always adopted a policy of dominating its taor in an effort to deny the terrorists freedom and used maximum aggression when needed, while at the same time adopted a hearts and minds campaign in the community. Now that the Corps was in the province frequently it began to change its tactics to make its job more efficient, our assault engineers formed special search teams as they had the kit and could hopefully locate devices before they went off also 45 Cdo were the first unit to use eagle VCPs which to prove very useful in South Armagh that was until the terrorists obtained surface to air missiles. The Corps quickly adapted its Commando training to the riggars of Northern Ireland.

Before 42 Cdo deployed to Ulster in 76 the IRA announced that it would kill ten Marines, during 42 Cdo's tour two mortar attacks were mounted but luckily both failed, then on the 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1981 the Commandant General Royal Marines, Lt General Sir Stuart Pringle lost a leg in a car bomb outside his home, despite his injury by early 82 he was back at work.

In 1989 the IRA was still looking for a Major Royal Marine target and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September it struck at the Royal Marines Barracks at Deal in Kent, killing eleven musicians in one of the most sickening attacks the organisation has ever carried out.

In July 2000 40 Cdo Recorded the Corps 40<sup>th</sup> Tour of duty in the Province.

### **NORWAY**

Although the possibilities of a confrontation on Europe's Northern Flank seem slim the Royal Marines still carries out winter warfare and survival packages in Norway, the bleak and hostile conditions make for a good and testing training area for the Corps.

Units used to do three months in Norway at the start of every year, unless on operational commitment, in that three months Marines are taught how to ski, fight and survive the harsh arctic conditions. You are still required to pass your APWT and you must reach a proficient level of skiing.

### **THE FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN**

For three months in the spring and summer of 1982, the Falklands conflict was headline news across the world it was the first conventional war that British Troops had fought since Korea, a war of great heroism, great sacrifice, great tragedy and a lot of harsh lessons for the men who took part.

There was a small detachment of Marines already permanently based on the Island, known as Naval Party 8901, they received an Int report that the Argentine carrier "Veintecento De Mayo" was on route loaded with Commando's to land and seize the island from the British.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

With the Marine detachment at section level it was going to prove an almost impossible task to fend off the attacking troops, at the briefing on the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup> the detachment CO told the Marines, "You are not fighting for the island, this time you're fighting for yourselves.

And that was exactly what they did, right through the night until just after breakfast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when Governor Rex Hunt ordered the surrender. That night 140 Argentine Commando's landed on the island, by daylight the following day the Marines were sandwiched between the two. With the detachment now being disarmed and searched the Argentine flag was flying above Government House, something they would later regret.

The British Government had to react quickly to this action and as the Argentine troops paraded through the streets of Stanley Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called for a task force to be assembled at the rush.

The force consisted mostly of the Parachute Regiment and the Corps, with Gurkhas and Guards and an awful lot of the Navy. Many civilian ships were used to move the Task Force, the Canberra carried the Marines and some of the Paras. The whole Fleet was at sea on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, many of the British Troops had to be recalled from leave or other trips, one was recalled from his wedding.

On the way to the Falklands much training was needed, from speed marching round the ship, weapon handling and zeroing not forgetting the Paras had to be taught in the use of our landing crafts also helo landings were practised as the way in which the task force would land was not yet known.

While this went on the SAS and SBS flew forward to meet up with HMS Endurance which was already in the area, they were to mount Ops and close target Recce's of the island and also look at the possibility of taking out the airport at Stanley.

Now that the plan had been worked out, all Int gathered it was time for the British Task Force to take back the island.

First the Paras re-took Goose Green, losing 17 men, one of which was the CO, then on the 30<sup>th</sup> May K Coy 42Cdo took Mount Kent, the following day reinforcing it with another Coy, then Mount Harret and Two Sisters were both taken by 42 and 45 Cdo after some fierce fighting, 45 Cdo had done a 40 mile yomp across the East of the Island before the attack carrying weight of up to 120lbs.

In total 3,520 Marines took part in the recapture of the Falkland Islands, it was one of the most ambitious amphibious landings in history. Travelling 8,000 miles to one of the bleakest battle fields in the world the Corps had a hand in every aspect of the conflict, two Officers and 25 received many honours and awards for gallantry.

### **THE GULF**

Although the Gulf War was a predominantly armoured war the Corps still played its part, individual personnel and small specialist parties served ashore and onboard vessels during the campaign, like air defence, ship detachments and of course the SBS.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

The subsequent operation Haven in April and July 1991 saw 3 Cdo Brigade, less 42 Cdo deployed to the mountains of Northern Iraq as part of a multi national force of 23,000 men. The mission was to set up safe havens for the Kurdish refugees and to shelter, feed and give first aid, the refugees were fleeing Saddam Hussein.

The Corps once again showed itself adept and dedicated to its humanitarian role clearing a number of mines, and having a number of successful firefights against probing Iraq forces.

### **THE ADRIATIC**

During the war in Bosnia in the mid 90's it was thought that arms and ammunition was being brought into the country by ship, as the U.N. were working hard to disarm the country the possibility of arms being shipped up the Adriatic, and even if it wasn't it would pose as a strong deterrent should anyone wish to try.

The Brigade was called on again to supply small six man teams, who would board the vessels and secure them so that the Navy could come aboard and search the ships, As the Royal Navy ships were already patrolling the Adriatic sea the units trained small teams in fast roping and boat insertions as well as sea survival and search techniques.

Once trained these teams were flown out to the ships and whenever a civilian vessel entered the Adriatic it would be stopped and its cargo searched. The teams become members of the ships company carrying out watches and duties alongside our matloe counterparts. Teams would insert onto the vessel preferably by Helo as fastroping was by far the fastest way to get six men onto a ship, however the weather was sometimes bad and Helo's were unable to fly, when this was the case teams were inserted by boat.

Yet again the Corps versatility was used for a task which it carried out to the best of its ability, all Marines that were in an operational theatre for more than 28 days were awarded the NATO Medal.

### **SIERRA LEONE**

With HMS Ocean on line units were put on her as exercising troops to make sure the Commando carrier was ready to meet the Brigades needs and also to make sure the Brigade was operationally ready. The ship loaded with 42 Cdo sailed at the beginning of 2000, the unit was under no illusions of the possibility that their was a fair chance of an operational role whilst on the trip as at that time their was a great deal of unrest in and around the medditeranian, it could be a reinforcement role in Kosovo or the evacuation of British nationals from one of several African countries.

Sierra Leone has been the focus of conflict for a number of years and Royal Marines from the Fleet standby rifle troop had been in Freetown a year earlier on a deployment named operation resilient, they were sent after the British Embassy had to be evacuated after heightened violence, this went unnoticed by the British press.

In May of 2000 the British High Commissioner in Freetown warned that the situation in the capital had deteriorated and advised London that the evacuation of British nationals should not be delayed.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

Ocean was about to dock in Marseilles for some cross training with the French but within days the exercise was abandoned and Ocean was put back to sea, its orders were to stand off Sierra Leone.

The Government then sent HMS Illustrious to the area and also HMS Chatham with 148 personnel of 29 Commando onboard along with boats from 539 Assault Sqn, more Fleet standby rifle troop teams were deployed, the task was named operation Pallister. Within days of arrival the Marines of 42 Cdo mounted river patrols on key waterways which separated Freetown from the airport at Lungi, the Paras had also been deployed and had seized the airport also mounting high profile patrols on the streets. After three weeks the Paras pulled out and 42 Cdo moved into Freetown and took control of the City, mounted heavily armoured rovers and on foot. This was now a huge media campaign, with green and cherry berets once again working aloneside each other like it had done back in 1982. This operation was a reminder to everyone in the world of Britains "On Call" readiness and its capability to, yet again take on any task it faces and produce the right results.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS

- 1664 –** Formation of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot.
- 1665-72 –** 2nd & 3rd Dutch Wars. Royal Netherlands Marine Corps formed.
- 1685 –** Renamed Prince George of Denmark's Regiment – disbanded 1689
- 1689-97 –** War with France
- 1702-13 –** War of Spanish Succession. Six Regts of Marines formed
- 1704 –** British and Dutch Marines capture Gibraltar.
- 1713 –** Reduced to three Regiments which were transferred to the Line. Only four Companies of Marine Invalids remained
- 1739 –** England declared war on Spain – The War of Jenkins' Ear. Six Marine Regiments raised
- 1740 –** Further four Regiments raised
- 1745-1750 –** Hannah Snell, served in the Marines.
- 1748 –** The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. All ten Marine Regiments disbanded
- 1755 –** A permanent Marine Corps of 50 Independent Companies established. Corps Strength 5,000
- 1756 –** The Seven Years War. Corps Strength 19,000
- 1759 –** The Capture of Quebec.
- 1761 –** The Capture of Belle Isle.
- 1770 –** Marines land with Captain James Cook at Botany Bay, Australia.
- 1775 –** American War of Independence. The Battle of Bunker Hill. United States Marine Corps formed.
- 1776 –** Corps Strength 25,000
- 1783 –** Stonehouse Barracks first occupied.
- 1788 –** Marines from the First Fleet land in Australia.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

- 1793-1802 –** French Revolutionary Wars – Actions in the Mediterranean, South Africa, India, Egypt and the East Indies.
- 1794 –** The Battle of the Glorious First of June off Ushant.
- 1797 –** The Battles of Camperdown and Cape St Vincent.
- 1798 –** The Battle of the Nile.
- 1802 –** The Corps honoured with the title ‘Royal’.
- 1803-15 –** Napoleonic Wars – Actions in East and West Indies, South America, South Africa and others.
- 1804 –** RM Artillery Companies formed.
- 1805 –** The Battle of Trafalgar. Woolwich Division formed. Corps Strength 31,000
- 1812-15 –** The War of 1812 in America
- 1814 –** The sacking of Washington
- 1815 –** Napoleon exiled to St Helena
- 1816 –** The bombardment of Algiers
- 1820 –** King George IV directed RM would take precedence after 49th Regt.
- 1827 –** Colours presented to each of the Divisions by HRH The Duke of Clarence. ‘The Globe’ badge granted. Corps Strength 9,000
- 1835-40 –** RM Battalion and RMA Battery in Spain during the Carlist War.
- 1839-42 –** RM in action in China’s Opium wars.
- 1848 –** Portsmouth Division moved into Forton Barracks, Gosport.
- 1854-56 –** The Crimean War
- 1854 –** Battle of Inkerman – first Royal Marine awarded VC – Cpl Prettyjohns.
- 1855 –** Royal Marines designated Light Infantry. Corps Strength 15,500.
- 1856-60 –** 2nd China War
- 1857-58 –** Indian Mutiny

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

- 1861 –** Depot established at Deal.
- 1861-64 –** The Maori Wars in New Zealand
- 1861-62 –** RM Battalion in Mexico
- 1862 –** RMA & RMLI became separate Corps
- 1864 –** Eastney Barracks first occupied
- 1864-65 –** RM Battalion in Japan
- 1867-68 –** Expedition to Abyssinia
- 1868 –** RM Battalion in Ireland
- 1869 –** Woolwich Division closed.
- 1873-74 –** The Ashanti War
- 1879 –** The Zulu War
- 1880-83 –** RM Battalion in Ireland
- 1882 –** The Egyptian Campaign
- 1884-85 –** The Sudan Campaign
- 1899-1902 –** RM with the Naval Brigade in South Africa. Corps Strength 19,000
- 1900-01 –** RM in action during the Boxer Rebellion alongside the USMC (for the first time).
- 1903 –** Royal Naval School of Music formed at Eastney. RM Memorial in the Mall unveiled
- 1914-18 -** First World War. Marines in HM Ships in all major engagements at sea.
- 1914 –** RM Brigade at Ostend and Antwerp.
- 1915 –** RM Brigade with the RN Division in Gallipoli. RMA Howitzer and AA. Bdes & Heavy Siege Train to France and Flanders.
- 1916 –** RM Battalions to France with 63<sup>rd</sup> (RN) Division. Battle of Jutland.
- 1918 –** The Raid on Zeebrugge – 4th RM Battalion. Institution of King's Squad & King's Badge. Corps Strength 55,000

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

- 1919 –** 6th Battalion in North Russia.
- 1922 –** 8th Battalion in Ireland
- 1923 –** 11th Battalion in Turkey. Amalgamation of RMA and RMLI. Forton Barracks, Gosport closed.
- 1927 –** 12th Battalion in Shanghai.
- 1930 –** RN School of Music moved to Deal.
- 1935 –** RM carryout London Duties London for the first time. RM in Alexandria with Base Defences, Mediterranean. Corps Strength 9,800
- 1939-45 –** Second World War. Marines in HM Ships in all major engagements at sea.
- 1940 –** RM ashore in Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, Holland and France.
- 1941 –** MNBDO1 in the evacuation of Crete. HMS *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* sunk.
- 1942 –** 'Plymouth Argylls' in Singapore. Force VIPER in Burma. First RM Commando formed. 40 RM Commando at Dieppe. 11th RM Battalion at Tobruk. Op Frankton – Cockleshell Heroes raid on Bordeaux shipping.
- 1943 –** 40 & 41 Commandos land in Sicily. 41 Commando landed at Salerno. RM Battalions formed into Commandos. 40 & 43 Commandos in action in Italy, Albania and Yugoslavia.
- 1944 –** 43 Commando landed at Anzio. 48 Commando formed. 17,500 Marines in The Landings in Normandy serving in Commandos, HM Ships and Landing Craft. 41, 47 & 48 Cdos in the Assault on Walcheren, supported by Marines in HM Ships and landing craft.
- 1945 –** 42 & 44 Commandos in the Battle of Kangaw, Burma. 40 & 43 Commandos in the Battle of Lake Comacchio, Italy. RM Commandos in the river crossings in NW Europe. Corps Strength 78,500
- 1946 –** Marines from HM Ships occupy Penang. 42 & 44 Commandos occupy Hong Kong.
- 1947 –** Reorganisation of the Corps – RM Divisions become functional Groups.
- 1948 –** RM Commandos cover the withdrawal from Palestine and deployed in the Suez Canal Zone. RM Forces Volunteer Reserve formed.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

- 1949 –** 45 Commando in Egypt and Aqaba. 3 Commando Brigade moves to Hong Kong. Closure of Chatham Group.
- 1950 –** 3 Commando Brigade moved to Malaya. 41 Independent Commando formed for operations in Korea. Chatham Barracks closed. RM Divisional Bands integrated with the RN School of Music to form the Royal Marines School of Music.
- 1952 –** 3 Commando Brigade moved to Malta. Presentation of first Colours to the RM Commandos. 41 Independent Commando disbanded at Bickleigh.
- 1953 –** 3 Commando Brigade moved to the Suez Canal Zone. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh appointed Captain General Royal Marines.
- 1954 –** 40 & 45 Commandos returned to Malta. 42 Commando moves to UK Amphibious School RM moved to Poole
- 1955-59 –** 40 & 45 Commandos alternated on operations in Cyprus.
- 1956 –** 3 Commando Brigade spearheaded landings at Port Said. First RM detachments for frigates formed. Corps Strength 10,000
- 1957 –** Elements of 42 Commando in Northern Ireland. Small Arms School RM at Browdown closed.
- 1958 –** RM Gunnery School at Eastney closed.
- 1960 –** HMS *Bulwark* commissioned as first Commando Ship. 45 Commando moved to Aden. 42 Commando moved to Singapore. 41 Commando re-formed. Melville Barracks Chatham closed. Green Berets to be worn by all trained ranks.
- 1961 –** 42 & 45 Commandos landed in Kuwait. HQ 3 Commando Brigade established in Singapore. 43 Commando re-formed in Plymouth.
- 1962 –** 40 & 42 Commandos in Brunei. Limbang Operation.
- 1963-66 –** 3 Commando Brigade (less 45 Commando) in anti-terrorist Confrontation operations in Borneo and Malaysia.
- 1964 –** 41 & 45 Commandos in East Africa. Corps Tercentenary celebrations. Lovat Dress introduced.
- 1964-1967 –** 45 Commando on operations in the Radfan.
- 1965 –** Earl Mountbatten of Burma appointed a Colonel Commandant RM

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

- 1966 –** The RMFVR retitled Royal Marines Reserve. End of Indonesian Confrontation.
- 1967 –** 42 Commando covered the final withdrawal from Aden. 45 Commando returned to UK. 40 Commando on IS duties in Hong Kong
- 1968 –** 43 Commando disbanded.
- 1969 –** 41 Commando was the first RM Commando on operations in Northern Ireland
- 1970 –** 45 Commando assigned to NATO for the Northern Flank.
- 1971 –** 3 Commando Brigade returned to UK from the Far East. 41 Commando moved to Malta. 45 Commando moved to Arbroath.
- 1972 –** Commando Logistic Regiment formed. Warrant rank reintroduced.
- 1973 –** PRORM integrated with HMS Centurion.
- 1974 –** 40 & 41 Commandos with UN Forces in Cyprus. Corps Strength 7,000
- 1976 –** RM detachments in frigates during the Cod War off Iceland.
- 1977 –** Silver Jubilee Inspection by HM The Queen on Plymouth Hoe. 41 Commando (less Salerno Company) left Malta.
- 1978 –** First 10-man Frigate detachment formed. 41 Commando carried out London Duties.
- 1979 –** Salerno Company left Malta.. 42 Commando deployed to Hong Kong for IS duties. Earl Mountbatten assassinated by the IRA.
- 1980 –** Comacchio Company formed (later RM Fleet Protection Group) Elements of 42 Commando deployed to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu). 3rd Raiding Squadron deployed to Hong Kong for duties against illegal immigrants.
- 1981 –** HRH Crown Prince Harald (now HM The King of Norway) appointed Honorary Colonel Royal Marines. 41 Commando disbanded at Deal. The Commandant General, Lt Gen Sir Steuart Pringle blown up outside his house by a terrorist car bomb.
- 1982 –** 3 Commando Brigade spearheaded the recapture of the Falkland Islands. RM Detachment for NP 1002 first deployed to Diego Garcia. 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron moved to RNAS Yeovilton.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

- 1983 –** 40 Commando deployed to Cyprus for UN tour of duty. RM Band of Flag Officer Naval Air Command disbanded. 40 Commando moved to Taunton.
- 1984 –** Detachments of 3 Commando Brigade Air Defence Troop embarked in ships of the Armilla Patrol. HM The Queen visited RM Poole. 539 Assault Squadron formed. All 10-man Frigate detachments withdrawn.
- 1985-93 –** RM Commandos deployed on operational tours in Belize.
- 1986 –** 42 Commando carried out London Duties. RM Commando memorial unveiled at Lympstone.
- 1987 –** RM Band of Flag Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Flotilla (FOF3) disbanded. SBS titled Special Boat Service and came under command of Director Special Forces.
- 1988 –** 3rd Raiding Squadron disbanded in Hong Kong.
- 1989 –** IRA bomb exploded at RMSM Deal killing 11 band ranks.
- 1990 –** RM embarked in HM Ships during the Gulf War.
- 1991 –** HQ Commando Forces and 3 Commando Brigade (less 42 Commando) deployed to South East Turkey for Operation Haven. Eastney Barracks closed.
- 1992 –** Alliance with the Barbados Defence Force.
- 1994 –** 45 Commando deployed to Kuwait.
- 1995 –** Headquarters Royal Marines established on Whale Island, Portsmouth. 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron incorporated into Naval Air Command as 847 Naval Air Sqn. RM provided the Commander and the Operations Staff of the Rapid Reaction Force HQ in Bosnia. Commando Logistic Regiment moved to Chivenor. 42 Commando and elements of the Commando Logistic Regiment on humanitarian and disaster relief in the West Indies. DRORM closed.
- 1996 –** Royal Marines School of Music moved to Portsmouth.
- 1996-97 –** 42 Commando and a detachment from 539 Squadron in the Congo prepared to evacuate civilians from Kinshasa.
- 1998 –** 45 Commando on humanitarian and disaster relief in Honduras and Nicaragua. 40 Commando and a detachment from 539 Squadron in the Congo prepared to evacuate British Nationals

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

- 1999 –** Ranks of RM officers aligned to those of the Army.
- 2000 –** 42 Commando deployed to Sierra Leone. HQ 3 Commando Brigade, 45 Commando, the Commando Logistic Regiment and the RM Band Plymouth deployed to Kosovo. RM National Memorial in London unveiled. Comacchio Group renamed Fleet Protection Group RM
- 2001 –** Fleet Protection Group moved from Arbroath to Faslane. New Colours presented to 40, 42 and 45 Commandos at Plymouth. Elements of 40 Commando deployed in HMS *Ocean* for operations in Afghanistan. 3 Commando Brigade Signal Squadron RM renamed United Kingdom Landing Force Command Support Group. RM Poole renamed 1 Assault Group.
- 2002 –** 45 Commando Group deployed on operations in Afghanistan. Headquarters United Kingdom Amphibious Force established with the Commandant General as the Commander (COMUKAMPHIBFOR). Firefighters' Industrial action, over 600 RM ranks involved. Corps Strength 6,100
- 2003 –** The Iraq War. Op TELIC – 3 Commando Brigade operations on the Al Faw peninsula and the liberation of Basra.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### MEMORABLE DATES

#### Introduction

Since the birth of the Corps in 1664, the Royal Marines has distinguished itself in many different theatres of war in every quarter of the globe. The Corps' crest, the globe encircled by laurels, reflects its involvement in every major sea battle and in many land campaigns for over three hundred years. The most important of these actions together with the formation of the Royal Marines have been commemorated by the granting of ten Corps Memorable Dates, ranging from the capture of Gibraltar in 1704 to the recent recapture of the Falkland Islands in 1982. Memorable dates for actions during and after the 1939-45 war have also been granted to operational HQ and units.

#### **The Birth of the Corps - 28 October 1664**

King Charles II sanctioned the formation of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot - the first Regiment to be formed specifically for service afloat. The Regiment was raised mainly from the Trained Bands of the City of London from which the RM derive the privilege of marching through the City of London with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed. The yellow stripe in our present-day Regimental flash commemorates the yellow uniforms of the Duke of York and Albany's Regiment.

#### **The Capture of Gibraltar - 24 July 1704**

The famous attack upon Gibraltar, which led to its surrender to the British, on 24 July 1704 was carried out by a brigade of British and Dutch Marines, 1,800 strong, under the command of Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt. In the following October, Gibraltar was besieged by the French and Spanish. The Marine brigade, which had been reinforced shortly before by a further 400 Marines from the British Fleet, held the fortress against repeated attacks until the siege was raised on 9 March 1705. In one incident in this fighting, Captain Fisher of the Marines with 17 of his men, successfully defended the Round Tower against the continued assaults of 500 French Grenadiers. A contemporary report of this noted defence says, "Encouraged by the Prince of Hesse, the garrison did more than could humanly be expected, and the English Marines gained an immortal glory.

#### **The Battle of Trafalgar - 21 October 1805**

The Corps was present at Lord Nelson's victory over the combined fleets at Trafalgar, the most decisive sea fight in British history. Ninety officers and over 3,600 NCOs, and men of the RM at their traditional stations on the upper decks of the British ships bore a brave and important part in the success of the day. The losses were particularly heavy on board the leading ships; in Lord Nelson's flagship, the Victory, 4 RM officers and 27 men of the RM detachment were killed or wounded. The total RM casualties during the battle were 4 officers and 117 men killed or died of wounds and 14 officers and 226 men wounded.

#### **The Battle of Belleisle - 7 June 1761**

Two battalions of Marines, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John McKenzie, served with great distinction at the siege of Belleisle, an island off the north-west coast of France near St Nazaire in Quiberon Bay. With the 19th Regiment, these two units effected their first successful seaborne landing in the face of stiff opposition. They took part in all subsequent fighting on the island.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

The Marine battalions gained great fame at the final storming of the redoubts in June. Of their conduct on this occasion the Annual Register for 1761 said:  
No action of greater spirit and gallantry has been performed during the whole war.  
The laurel wreath borne on the Colours and appointments of the RM is believed to have been adopted in honour of the distinguished service of the Corps during this operation.

### **The Battle of Bunker Hill -17 June 1775**

On the night of 16 June 1775 a rebel American force occupied dominating high ground to the north of the town of Boston where a British garrison was based. On the following morning General Sir William Howe launched an attack to dislodge the Americans which was repulsed with heavy losses. A second attack was also unsuccessful but the third, after Howe had been reinforced by a Marine Force and the 47th Regiment, finally took the position. The Marine Force under Major John Pitcairn consisted of the First and Second Marine Battalions. It suffered casualties of 29 killed and 87 wounded in storming the heights. A contemporary report said:

"The reputation of the Marines was never more nobly sustained. Their unshaken steadiness was conspicuous and their valour in closing with the enemy when part of the attacking column wavered gained them not only the admiration of their comrades but the commendation of their distinguished chief."

### **Gallipoli - 28 April 1915**

During February and March 915 elements of the 3rd Royal Marines Brigade (Brigadier C N Trotman RMLI), landed largely unopposed on the Gallipoli Peninsula to dismantle Turkish defensive positions. After the unsuccessful naval attempts to force the Narrows in March, the Turkish Army reinforced the peninsula in strength. Thereafter a major amphibious operation was required. The Plymouth Battalion RMLI took part in the initial landing on 25 April but the Brigade did not land until the night of 28/29 April when it went ashore at Anzac Cove to relieve 1 and 3 Australian Brigades. On 30 April it was joined in the line by 1 Royal Navy Brigade (Brigadier D Mercer RMLI) which contained the Deal RMLI Battalion. For the next 13 days both brigades were engaged in continuous heavy fighting, bearing the brunt of the Turkish attacks and displaying great resolution. After a counter-attack in the Monash Valley by Chatham and Portsmouth Battalions on 3 May 1915 the Turks were driven back with heavy losses. Major Quinn, a great Australian VC, said to Major Jerram of the RM Brigade "The bravest thing I've seen so far was the charge of your two Battalions up that hill on Bloody Sunday."

In another incident Lance Corporal W R Parker (Portsmouth Battalion RMLI) was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in evacuating a party of wounded men under fire. The RM Brigade's casualties during this period were 21 officers and 217 men killed, 29 officers and 764 men wounded and 122 men missing. On 12 May both brigades were deployed to Cape Helles to rejoin the RN Division for the remainder of the campaign.

### **The Raid on Zeebrugge - 23 April 1918**

The 4th Battalion RM under the command of Lieutenant Colonel B N Elliot DSO took a leading part in the gallant enterprise against the German naval base at Zeebrugge, on St George's Day, 1918.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

The RMLI companies landed on the Mole in the face of determined opposition and held their positions while the entrance to the canal was successfully blocked and the Mole destroyed. Lieutenant Colonel Elliot, the last of a family who had served in the Corps from father to son since 1755, Major Corder, his second-in-command, 9 other officers and 109 NCOs and men lost their lives in this gallant affair, while 233 all ranks were wounded and 13 taken prisoner. Two Victoria Crosses were awarded to the RM for their conduct during the operation.

### **The Landings in Normandy - 6 June 1944**

Over 16000 Royal Marines took part in the largest amphibious operation in history. Most of the minor landing craft were manned by Royal Marines, as also were the guns of the support craft, and all capital ships carried an RM detachment. Five RM Commandos (41, 45, 46, 47 and 48) landed during the assault phase, grouped with three Army Commandos into two Special Service Brigades. In addition the Corps provided a number of specialist units including an Armoured Support Group, beach clearance and control parties and engineers. The first 48 hours of the operation were the most critical, involving a seaborne assault against a heavily protected and strongly held coastline. Most of the RM Commandos were ashore by 0900 hours on 6 June and had achieved their initial objectives by early on 7 June. The Corps thus played a leading role in the establishment of secure beach-heads from which subsequent operations to defeat the German Army in the west were developed. Nine officers and 85 men were killed in action on 6 June. The number of wounded is not known. The following gallantry awards were conferred upon Royal Marines during the Normandy campaign, most of them for actions on 6 June: 5 DSOs, 3 OBEs, 13 DSCs, 10 MCs, 1 CGM, 26 DSMs and 13 MMs.

### **The Assault on Walcheren -1 November 1944**

The leading troops in the successful seaborne attack on Walcheren in November 1944, were the 4th Special Service Brigade (Brigadier B W Leicester DSO) consisting of Numbers 41, 47 and 48 Commandos and Number 4 Army Commando. The three RM Commandos attacked Westkapelle with little support, owing to the weather, other than that provided

## **UNIT MEMORABLE DATES**

### **40 Commando RM**

#### **The Landing at Termoli - 3 October 1943**

In the early hours of 3 October 1943, 40 RM Commando (Lieutenant Colonel J C Manners) with No 3 Commando and elements of the Special Raiding Squadron landed under cover of darkness at Termoli, a seaport town on the Adriatic coast, north of the River Bifurno and behind the German lines. 40 Commando penetrated well into the town before the enemy were alerted and brisk close-quarter fighting with German parachute troops ensued. By 0800 hours, 40 Commando had captured the town and controlled the approaches. So complete was the surprise that German vehicles and motor cyclists still drove into a Commando ambush position until noon. The Germans retaliated in strength and 40 Commando with 3 Commando, the Special Raiding Squadron and some reinforcements from the 78th Division, held off repeated and heavy infantry and armoured counter-attacks by the 26th Panzer Division until eventually the 8th Army linked up with them on 6 October. The operation was an outstanding success.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

They had overcome all attempts, by a force vastly superior in numbers and armament, to dislodge them and in so doing, won a valuable harbour: they caused the enemy to withdraw from the natural defence line on the Bifumo and denied them the use of the important lateral road from Naples, thereby forcing them to retreat further northwards.

### **40 Commando RM**

#### **The Clearance Of The Al Faw Peninsula - 20 March 2003**

In the summer of 1956 President Nasser of Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal. The British and French Governments subsequently decided to reoccupy the Canal Zone and 3 Commando Brigade was nominated to spearhead the amphibious assault. At dawn on 6 November 1956, 40 Commando RM (Lieutenant Colonel D G Tweed MBE), along with 42 Commando on their right, supported by naval bombardment and with close air support, landed across the beaches at Port Said. Its task was to recapture the main part of the town, the government offices and the docks area. Heavy street fighting followed all day down narrow alleys and through high tenement blocks, all under constant enemy sniping. With determination, military skill and superb junior leadership, all the Commando's objectives were seized before a cease-fire was ordered later that day. This was the first major seaborne assault since the Second World War and 40 Commando played a significant part in this entirely successful phase of the operation.

### **42 Commando RM**

#### **The Battle of Kangaw - 31 January 1945**

In Burma during January 1945, following the capture of the Myebon Peninsula, 3 Commando Brigade was given the task of making a further landing near Kangaw, with the intention of cutting the Japanese lines of withdrawal down the coast. On 22 January 1945, 42 RM Commando (Lieutenant Colonel H H Dales) together with No 1 Commando landed and occupied positions in the mangrove swamp. Subsequently the Commando was ordered to capture a heavily wooded ridge known as Hill 170. Two days of hand-to-hand fighting were necessary before the Japanese could be driven from the ridge, and no sooner were they dislodged than they subjected it to heavy artillery fire. After a lull of several days, the Japanese counter-attacked at dawn on 31 January 1945. The enemy attacked repeatedly. In spite of heavy casualties to the Commando, the Japanese were finally beaten off, and withdrew, leaving their dead dying thickly among forward Commando positions. In a Special Order of the Day to 3 Commando Brigade, Lieutenant General Sir Philip Christison, Commander of XV Corps, concluded 'the Battle of Kangaw has been the decisive battle of the whole Arakan campaign, and that it was won was very largely due to your magnificent defence on Hill 170'.

### **42 Commando RM**

#### **The Attack on Mount Harriet -11/12 June 1982**

During the initial landings on the Falklands Islands on 21 May 1982, 42 Commando RM (Lieutenant Colonel N F Vaux) were brigade reserve at Port San Carlos before seizing Mount Kent in a night move by helicopter. By 4 June the unit had moved forward, mostly under cover of darkness, to positions west of the high ground overlooking Stanley and the last Argentine stronghold.



## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

After days of probing reconnaissance, a Brigade assault took place on the night 11/12 June in which the Commando's task was to secure Mount Harriet on the Brigade right flank. In the moonlight and freezing temperatures, 42 Commando moved undetected through enemy minefields in a 9 kilometre right-flanking movement to surprise the enemy in their rear. Consecutive assaults by K and L Companies followed up steep slopes on to company positions among the crags at either end of the feature. Careful planning, resolute leadership and the boldness and determination of Marines against initially strong resistance and continuous artillery bombardment eventually prevailed. By first light more than 30 enemy had been killed and over 300 prisoners taken as 42 Commando consolidated Mount Harriet.

### **45 Commando RM**

#### **The Attack on Monforterbeek - 23 January 1945**

During their advance on Linne in Holland on 23 January 1945, 45 RM Commando (Lieutenant Colonel W N Gray) was held up by well-prepared positions behind the Montforterbeek dyke. After hard fighting in bitterly cold weather and over flat ground covered in snow, the leading Troops achieved their objectives. Meanwhile Commando Headquarters and the remainder of the unit, lying in the snow and frozen with cold, were subjected to heavy shelling from self-propelled guns and suffered numerous casualties. It was during this action that Lance Corporal H E Harden, RAMC, the medical orderly attached to 'A' Troop, particularly distinguished himself. He crawled in the snow across 120 yards of flat open ground to dress the wounds of three casualties and then carried one man back under intense mortar and machine-gun fire before returning with a stretcher party for the other two. While bringing back the third man he was shot through the head and killed. Harden was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his fearless action. The Commander of the 7th Armoured Division passed the following message during the day, which was published as a Special Order:

"To all ranks, 45 Commando. The Divisional Commander congratulates 45 Royal Marine Commando on their valuable work today, which has been of great importance in driving back the enemy on the Divisional front. Well done Royal Marines! You put up a fine show today, and I am very proud of you."

In spite of a determined night counter-attack during which hand-to-hand fighting took place in front of the slit trenches, the captured German positions were held until the unit was relieved by No 6 Commando in the morning.

### **45 Commando RM**

#### **The Attack on Two Sisters - 11/12 June 1982**

In the dawn assault on the Falkland Islands on 21 May 1982 45 Commando RM (Lieutenant Colonel A F Whithead) landed at Ajax Bay on the Brigade's right flank. After securing the western side of the beach-head, and while ships were being unloaded under Argentine air attack, 45 Commando marched across more than 80 kilometres of rugged terrain in freezing weather and driving rain via Douglas Settlement and Teal Inlet to be in position on Mount Kent for 3 Commando Brigade's main attack. The Commando's objective was the twin peaks of Two Sisters, the centre of the Brigade's three objectives. Bold reconnaissance between 4 and 9 June had pinpointed enemy positions and fighting patrols, while artillery harassing fire had caused some early casualties to the enemy.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

A silent approach and a two-pronged attack during the night of 11/12 June against well-equipped and dug-in opposition up the jagged, craggy rock formations culminated in fierce hand-to-hand fighting for the final enemy company positions. About 50 prisoners were captured and 20 enemy either killed or wounded; the remainder had retreated to the east. Thirty-six hours later the Commando advanced swiftly to Sapper Hill, again on foot, and thence into Port Stanley.

### **3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron RM**

#### **The Recapture of the Falkland Islands -14 June 1982**

From the first landings in San Carlos Water on 21 May until the Argentine surrender 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron RM (Major C P Cameron) supported the land forces often under appalling conditions, by day and night and, in the early stages, frequently attacked by Argentine fighter and ground attack aircraft. During the initial landings and in the course of the attack on Darwin and Goose Green the Squadron lost three aircraft to enemy action together with four aircrew killed and two wounded. The Squadron was involved in every major ground battle during the campaign in a variety of roles; reconnaissance, liaison, the movement of ammunition to the front line and the recovery of casualties from the forward positions. All these were undertaken in a variety of weather conditions, sometimes at night and often under fire. Its six Scout and nine Gazelle helicopters flew a total of 2,110 hours in just over three weeks, reflecting a remarkable rate of serviceability and flying. The courage and skill of the aircrew backed by the skill and devotion to duty of the ground support enabled the Squadron to make a significant contribution to the defeat of the Argentine ground forces and their surrender on 14 June.

### **Operational Landing Craft Squadrons**

#### **The Landings in Normandy - 6 June 1944**

On 6 June 1944, Allied forces based in the United Kingdom successfully assaulted the coast of Normandy as a first step to the defeat of the German Army in the west. Royal Marines manned the assault landing craft carrying the first and subsequent waves of the five leading infantry divisions. In addition they manned the guns of the support landing craft and men of the landing craft obstruction clearance units were among the first ashore in order to clear the defences on the beaches. For weeks after the initial assault, landing craft crews continued to ferry ashore men, vehicles and stores of the reinforcing divisions. Both afloat in landing craft and ashore in the naval beach parties, the Royal Marines played a prominent and vital part in the invasion.

Operational Landing Craft Squadrons - The Landings in San Carlos Water - 21 May 1982  
After Argentine forces had occupied the Falkland Islands on 2 April 1982, a British Task Force was formed and ordered to recapture them. Starting before dawn on 21 May 1982 in San Carlos Water, the RM landing craft squadrons from HMS Fearless and Intrepid, together with the 1st Raiding Squadron RM, landed 3 Commando Brigade on to 5 separate beaches without loss. After these initial landings the Squadrons continued to off-load the logistic shipping in deteriorating weather and under constant air attack. Later all raiding and landing craft were formed into the Task Force Landing Craft Squadron, which subsequently operated on both flanks supporting 3 Commando Brigade and 5 Infantry Brigade in dangerous and testing conditions. The new Squadron also assisted the Commodore Amphibious Warfare in minesweeping duties and Special Forces raiding and insertion tasks. Without this invaluable contribution, before, during and after the main landings, the Falkland Islands Task Force could not have achieved its objective in such a timely manner.

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

### **Commando Logistic Regiment RM Landing at Ajax Bay - 22 May 1982**

The Falklands campaign was fought some 8,000 miles from 3 Commando Brigade's base in Plymouth. This stretched the logistic support to its utmost. The Commando Logistic Regiment RM (Lieutenant Colonel I J Hellberg RCT) was faced with the problem of supporting an enlarged Brigade spread over more than 30 warships, auxiliaries and merchant ships. The skill, dedication and exceptional devotion of the ordnance, transport, repair and medical elements of the Regiment in adverse weather conditions and often under heavy enemy air attack played a major part in the success of the landings in San Carlos Water. During the following three weeks of the campaign, from their beach support area at Ajax Bay where it landed on 22 May, the Regiment supported a Divisional Headquarters and two brigades, treated 695 casualties, processed 2,000 prisoners of war and dealt with over 8,000 tons of stores, ammunition and equipment. The logistic support provided by the Commando Logistic Regiment RM was a battle-winning factor.

### **3 Commando Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron RM The Landings in San Carlos Water - 21 May 1982**

After Argentine forces had occupied the Falkland Islands in April 1982, 3 Commando Brigade RM was the landing element of the amphibious task force ordered to recapture them. The landing force consisting of 40, 42 and 45 Commandos RM, reinforced by 2nd and 3rd Battalions The Parachute Regiment, embarked in HMS Fearless and Intrepid, Landing Ships Logistic and in many ships taken up from trade and sailed 8,000 miles south via Ascension Island. The latter stages of the voyage were conducted in poor weather conditions and under threat of Argentine surface, subsurface and air attack. Sound planning in conjunction with the Naval Task Force Commanders, culminated in a successful unopposed Brigade night landing in the San Carlos region of East Falkland before dawn on 21 May 1982. For the next seven days the landing force was under constant attack as the Argentine Air Force attempted to dislodge it from the beachhead. The choice of this remote, sheltered landing area, more than 70 kilometres from the capital of Stanley, enabled the landing force to withstand the air assault and played a major part in ensuring the successful recapture of the Falkland Islands during the ensuing weeks.

### **Memorable Dates of Disbanded Units**

Memorable dates for Commandos disbanded at the end of World War 2 are:

41 Commando RM - 9 September 1943 Landing at Salerno.

43 Commando RM - 2 April 1945 Battle of Comacchio.

44 RM Commando - 31 January 1945 Battle of Kangaw

46 RM Commando - 11 June 1944 The Attack on Le Hamel and Rots.

47 RM Commando - 7 June 1944 Capture of Port-En-Bessin

48 RM Commando - 6 June 1944 Landings in Normandy.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## THE COLOURS

### The Royal Cypher



The Royal Cypher appears on the drums and also on the backing cards of the bands when on parade:

### The Corps Colours

The following are the Corps colours, in sequence and proportion:



Blue 4 part  
Yellow 1 part  
Green 1 part  
Red 2 parts  
Blue 4 parts

#### Blue

Navy blue is the primary colour in the combination selected. It marks the intimate connection of the Corps with the RN.

#### Red

Drummer red is the secondary colour in the design. This tint of red is the old historic colour of the British Army and was worn by the infantry of the Corps from early times down to the introduction of scarlet in 1876.

#### Green

Light Infantry green was worn on the shako by the infantry of the Corps for some years. It was perpetuated in the bugle strings of the RMLI

#### Yellow

Old gold, rather than yellow, is the colour closely associated with the early history of the Corps, as it was the distinctive colour of the dress and ensigns of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot from which the Corps originates.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## THE COLOURS



### The Queen's Colour

The Union Flag, in the centre of which is a fowl anchor with the cipher of HM The Queen interlaced; above, St Edward's Crown surmounted by a scroll inscribed 'Gibraltar'; below, the globe surrounded by a laurel wreath, under which a scroll inscribed with the Corps motto 'Per Mare Per Terram'. The cords and tassels are of gold interwoven with silks of the Commando's colour which corresponds to the Commando lanyards worn by all ranks.



### The Regimental Colour

A Blue Flag with a small Union Flag in the canton nearest the pike head, and the Cypher of HM The Queen surmounted by a St Edward's Crown in the other three corners; centre embellishments are similar to the Queen's Colour, except that the fowl anchor is interlaced with the cipher of George IV and the Commando numeral appears below the motto. The cords and tassels are of gold interwoven with silks of the Commando's colour which corresponds to the Commando lanyards worn by all ranks.

The 'Colours' as we know them were first presented by William Duke of Clarence, who later went on to become George IV, in 1827. A 'Stand of Colours' consists of, the Queens and Regimental colours. The history of the 'Colours' can be dated as far back as the Stone Age when men painted their skins different colours as recognition in battle. This later progressed to knights of old having their standards painted on their shields. In days gone by soldiers rallied by their standards rather than their leaders and the last phase of any battle was normally found around the 'Colour' of the losing side. At sunset on the eve of a major battle the 'Colours' would be paraded before the men to give the soldiers heart for the coming battle. This ceremony has, in present days come to be known as 'Trooping the Colour'. During this ceremony the colours are paraded before the particular Battalion which are trooping their 'Colour'. This also stems from the fact that a soldier would grasp the corner of the 'Colour' when taking the 'Oath of Allegiance'.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## THE QUEENS COLOUR

*The Queens Colour is a union flag on which is superimposed:-*

Gibraltar	The Corps most famous Battle Honour
Lion and Crown	Denoting the corps loyalty to the Crown
Fouled Anchor	Showing the Corps link with the Royal Navy
Cypher (Signature)	Of the Reigning Monarch
Globe	Indicates the Corp having fought all around the world
Laurel Wreath	Believed to have been awarded for gallantry at Belle Isle
Per Mare Per Terram	The Corps Motto, said to have been first used at Bunker Hill

## THE REGIMENTAL COLOUR

The regimental colour consists of a blue background with a small Union Jack in the top left corner:-

Gibraltar	The Corps most famous Battle Honour
Lion and crown	Denoting the corps loyalty to the Crown
Fouled anchor	Showing the Corps link with the Royal Navy
Cypher (Signature) of George IV	He decreed that his cypher would always appear on the regimental colours
Globe	Indicates the Corp having fought all around the world
Laurel wreath	Believed to have been awarded for gallantry at Belle Isle
Per Mare per Terram	The Corps Motto, said to have been first used at Bunker Hill
Cypher of the Reigning Monarch	In the three spare corners
Unit Colours	The units number directly below the Corps Motto. Tassels are intertwined with the unit Colours.

Both Colours are made of silk measuring 3' 9" x 3' with gold chords and tassels interlaced with crimson (CDO Units mentioned above). The pike measures 7' 10"

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## BADGE AND CORPS MOTTO

The badge of the Royal Marines is an amalgam of several symbols, each of its own particular significance to the history of the corps.



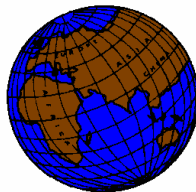
### The Lion and Crown

Denotes a “royal” regiment. George III conferred this honour in 1802 in consideration of the very meritorious services of the Marines in the late war.



### Gibraltar

The capture and defence of Gibraltar in 1704 was considered by George IV to be one of the most glorious achievements of the Royal Marines and that it should therefore appear as part of their emblem to represent the numerous honours they had earned.



### The Great Globe

Granted by King George IV in 1827, chose this symbol to represent the Marines successes in every quarter of the world



### The Laurels

The Laurels are believed to honour the gallantry they displayed during the capture of Belle Isle in 1761.



### The Fouled Anchor

Incorporated into the emblem in 1747 is the badge of the Lord High Admiral and indicates the Corps is part of the Royal Navy.



### Per Mare Per Terram

“By sea By Land” is the motto of the Royal Marines. It is believed to have been used first in 1775.

MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET  
MARINE CADET SECTION





# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## Victoria Cross Medal Holders OF THE

### ROYAL MARINES



Cpl	John	PRETTYJOHN	RMLI	INKERMAN	1854
Bdr	Thomas	WILKINSON	RMA	SEBASTOPOL	1855
Lt	George Dare	DOWELL	RMA	VIBORG	1855
Capt	Lewis Stratford Tollemache	HALLIDAY	RMLI	PEKING	1900
L/Cpl	Walter Richard	PARKER	RMLI	GALLIPOLI	1915
Major	Francis John William	HARVEY	RMLI	JUTLAND	1916
Major	Frederick William	LUMSDEN	RMA	FRANCE	1917
Capt	Edward	BAMFORD	RMLI	ZEEBRUGGE	1918
Sgt	Norman Augustus	FINCH	RMA	ZEEBRUGGE	1918
Cpl	Thomas Peck	HUNTER	RM	LAKE COMMACHIO	1945

### The Victoria Cross

*is the highest and most prestigious award  
for gallantry in the face of the enemy  
that can be awarded to  
British and Commonwealth forces.*

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

### **CORPORAL JOHN PRETTYJOHN RMLI 5 November 1854 at the Battle of Inkerman, Crimea**



Reported for Gallantry at the Battle of Inkerman having placed himself in an advanced position and noticed as having shot four Russians. On 5th November 1854 at the Battle of Inkerman, Corporal Prettyjohns' platoon went to clear out some caves which were occupied by snipers. In doing so they used up almost all of their ammunition, and then noticed fresh parties of Russians creeping up the hill in single file. Corporal Prettyjohn gave instructions to his men to collect as many stones as possible which they could use instead of ammunition. When the first Russian appeared he was seized by the Corporal and thrown down the slope. The others were greeted by a hail of stones and retreated. Besides his VC Prettyjohn was awarded the British Crimea Medal with clasps for Balaclava, Inkerman and Sebastopol. The Turkish Crimea and Sardinian Medal, The China Medal 1857 with a clasp for Canton a Good Conduct Medal and a Good Conduct gratuity in the Crimea. He died, aged 62 in Manchester on January 1887 where he is buried in the Southern Cemetery.

### **BOMBARDIER THOMAS WILKINSON RMA 7 June 1885 at the Battle of Sebastopol, Crimea War**



On the 7th of June at the Battle of Sebastopol Bombardier Wilkinson was especially recommended for gallant conduct in the advanced batteries in placing sandbags to repair the work under a hail of fire. Despite the gun emplacement being blasted to all but a heap he continued aloft calling for more sandbags reinforcing his position. As well as the Victoria Cross, Wilkinson also received the French Legion of Honour, the Turkish Crimea Medal and the British Crimea Medal with clasps for Balaclava, Inkerman and Sebastopol. He died at the age of 55, in York on 22nd September 1887 where he is buried. The memorial stone raised by his comrades reads; - "Honour the Brave – To the memory of Thomas Wilkinson, pensioner RMA, who died in the City of York 22nd September 1887 and was interred with full military honours.

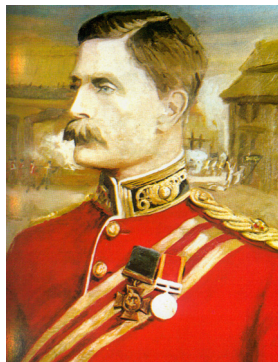
## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### LIEUTENANT GEORGE DARE DOWELL RMA 13<sup>th</sup> July 1855 at the Battle of Viborg, Crimea War



On the 13th of July 1855 at the Forth of Viborg in the Gulf of Finland, when an explosion occurred in the magazine of one of the cutters of HMS Arrogant, Lieutenant Dowell, who was on board HMS Ruby, took 3 volunteers and went under heavy fire to the assistance of the cutter. He took up three of the crew, and having rescued the rest and also the Captain of the Mast, George Ingouville, RN (also awarded the VC), he then towed the stricken boat out of enemy range. On 21st November 1857 his Victoria Cross had the Blue Ribbon (won at sea) and he was also presented with the Crimea Medal with Baltic Clasp. He retired from military service with the rank of Brevet Lt Col as adjutant of the 3rd Brigade, Western Division of Artillery Militia on 29th January 1886. He then emigrated. He died aged 79 in Auckland, New Zealand, where he is buried in Purewa Cemetery.

### CAPTAIN LEWIS STRATFORD TOLLEMACHE HALLIDAY RMLI 24<sup>th</sup> June 1900 Peeking China Boxer Rising, China



The enemy consisting of Boxers and Imperial Chinese Army Troops, made a fierce attack on the west wall of the British Legation in Peking, setting fire to the west gate of the stable quarters and taking over the buildings which adjoined the wall. The fire, which spread to part of the stables and through which a galling fire was kept up by the Imperial Troops, was with difficulty extinguished and the presence of the enemy in the adjoining buildings was a grave danger to the legation. A sortie was organised to drive them out. A hole was made in the legation wall and Captain Halliday, in command of 20 Marines, led by into the buildings and almost immediately engaged the enemy. Before he could use his revolver, however, he was shot through the left shoulder at point blank range. The bullet fractured his shoulder and carried away part of his lung. Notwithstanding the extremely severe nature of his wound, Captain Halliday killed three assailants, telling his men "to carry on and not mind

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

him”, walked back un aided to the hospital, refusing an escort and so as not to diminish the number of men in the sortie.

### **LANCE CORPORAL WALTER RICHARD PARKER RMLI** **30<sup>th</sup> April 1915 at the Battle of Gallipoli, World War I**



Lance Corporal Parker was awarded his VC in recognition of his bravery and devotion to duty in the course of the Dardanelles operations. Between 28th April and 1st May 1915, a message was sent asking for ammunition, water and medical stores, which was received from an isolated trench at Gaba Tepe. A party of NCO's and men were detailed to carry water and ammunition. Lance Corporal Parker at once came forward. He had already shown great bravery as stretcher bearer, several men had been killed in an attempt to bring assistance to the men holding the fire trench. To reach the fire trench it was necessary to traverse an arc at least 400 mtrs wide, which was completely exposed and swept by enemy fire. It was already daylight when the party emerged from shelter and at once one of the men was wounded. Lance Corporal Parker organised a stretcher party and then going on alone succeeded in reaching the fire trench. After arrival he rendered first aid to the wounded in the trench displaying courage despite receiving wounds of his own evacuated the wounded in the fire trench.

### **MAJOR FRANCIS JOHN WILLIAM HARVEY RMLI** **31<sup>st</sup> May 1916 Battle of Jutland, World War I**



On the 31st May 1916 the British Fleet met the German Imperial High Seas Fleet in the North Sea, off the western coast of the Jutland peninsula (Denmark). This was to be the greatest sea battle since Trafalgar. On board HMS Lion, Admiral Beatty's flagship, received a hit on "Q" turret by an 11 inch shell. This turret was the Marines turret and was commanded by Major Harvey. This blew open the turret roof, killing or mortally wounding

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

the crew in the turret house and control position. Major Harvey, who with his legs blown off, was dying, gave the order to flood the turret magazine. Marines from another gun battery tried to put out the fires, but as they were doing so some cordite fell from the breach from one of the guns, which caught fire and in turn set off another charge waiting in the turret trucking. This sheet of flame tunnelled downward killing the shell-room and magazine gun crews waiting at the foot of the trunk, but because of the flood magazine and its doors being shut, it did not explode, therefore, saving the entire ship from being sunk. As the result of his action that day Major Harvey was awarded the posthumous Victoria Cross for presence of mind and devotion to duty. The King at Buckingham Palace presented this to his widow.

### **MAJOR FREDERICK WILLIAM LUMSDEN RMA 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1917 at the Battle of Francilly, World War I**



A battery of six enemy field guns had been captured, but it was necessary to leave them dug in their own positions some 300 yds in advance of the position held by our troops. The enemy kept the captured position under constant fire. Major Lumsden personally organised the duty of bringing the guns back into his own lines despite the fact that the enemy was counter attacking and their rifle fire becoming more accurate. He led four artillery teams and a party of Infantry through the hostile barrage. As one of these teams sustained casualties he left the remaining teams in covered position, and, through very heavy rifle fire and machine gun fire with shrapnel fire, he led the Infantry to the guns. By force of example and inspiring energy he succeeded in sending back two teams with guns, despite counter attack from the enemy. Major Lumsden returned and drove off the enemy, attached the final gun and returned back to his own lines.

### **CAPTAIN EDWARD BAMFORD RMLI 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1918 Raid on Zeebrugge, World War I**



## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

Captain Bamford was “B” Company Commander during the raid on Zeebrugge, and on landing, led his company on the Mole, and under heavy fire he displayed the greatest initiative by total disregard of danger showed magnificent example to his men. He established a strongpoint in Number 3 shed, then when satisfied that this was safe, he led an assault on the left with the utmost coolness and valour. His Victoria Cross like Sergeant Finch’s was awarded as a result of a ballot amongst survivors of the raid, as there were so many acts of bravery on that day.

### **SERGEANT NORMAN AUGUSTUS FINCH RMA** **23<sup>rd</sup> April 1918 Raid on Zeebrugge, World War I**



Sergeant Finch was stationed in the foretop, as gun controller and second in command of this position, which he controlled the pom-pom and Lewis guns of HMS Vindictive. In spite of damaging fire, the Marines kept up a continuous fire, changing targets frequently to keep the enemies heads down. The foretop received two direct hits, killing or disabling all except Sergeant Finch, who continued to fire a Lewis gun at the enemy on the Mole despite having his right arm shattered. He only abandoned the foretop after another direct hit which destroyed the armourment. Sergeant Finch’s Victoria Cross, like Captain Bamford’s was awarded after a ballot by survivors of the raid.

### **CORPORAL THOMAS PECK HUNTER RM** **3<sup>rd</sup> April 1945 Lake Comacchio, Italy**



Corporal Hunter of “C” Troop was in charge of a bren group of the leading section of 43 Commando. Realizing that his Troop behind him were in the open, Corporal Hunter seized the Bren gun and charged across 200yds of open ground drawing fire from 3 spandau guns. He ran through the houses, changing magazines as he ran and cleared the houses. Six Germans surrendered to him the others fleeing before him. The Troop following came under intense fire again Corporal Hunter offered himself as a target in front of three enemy

## **MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION**

Pill boxes. Shouting encouragement to his men Corporal Hunter was finally hit in the head by a burst of machine gun fire and killed instantly. There is no doubt Corporal Hunter saved his Troop and displayed magnificent courage and leadership to his comrades.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## REGIMENTAL MUSIC

**QUICK MARCH:** “*A Life on the Ocean Wave*”, was composed by Henry Russell in 1868, with words by Epps Sargent. A part of the song “The Sea” is included as the trio. Authorised in 1882.

*A life on the ocean wave,  
A home on the rolling deep,  
Where the scatter'd waters rave  
And the winds their revels keep.  
Like an eagle caged, I pine  
On this dull un changing shore;  
O give me the flashing brine,  
The spray and the tempest's roar.*

**SLOW MARCH:** “*The Preobrajensky March*”, presented to the Corps in 1964 by the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, whose uncle, the Grand Duke Sergius, at one time commanded the Russian Preobrajensky Guards.

**SALUTE:** The first eight bars of “*The Preobrajensky March*” is played in quick time as a salute for Royal Marines General Officers.

**COMMANDO MARCH:** In addition to the Regimental Quick March, Commando units may use “*Sarie Marais*”, an old Boer Commando song, officially adopted by the Corps in 1952:

*O take me back to the Old Transvaal  
That's where I long to be,  
I left my little Sarie where the measlies grow  
Just by the green thorn tree.  
And there I'll be to meet her where  
I loved her so.  
Down by the green- thorn tree.*

**INSPECTION MUSIC:** “*The Globe and Laurel*”, an arrangement of the tune “Early one Morning” by Sir Vivian Dunn, which was the regimental slow march until 1964.

### Notes on RM Band Cap Badges (overleaf)

The Band of HM Royal Marines, Commander- in- Chief Naval Home Command has its origin in the Band of The Royal Marine Artillery, who wore a bursting grenade and laurel wreath. The RMA Band was awarded the cipher of King George V for their attendance on HM during his visit to India in 1911. The combined ciphers of HM The Queen and HRH The Prince Phillip were awarded to the RMA Band, for their attendance during the 1955 Commonwealth Tour. The Band of HM Royal Marines Commandos has its origin in the Band of the Plymouth Division Royal Marines, which was awarded the Prince of Wales's Plume for their attendance on HRH, later King Edward VIII, during his tour in HMS Renown in 1920.



## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

### THE KINGS SQUAD

On the occasion of his visit to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion in March 1918, preparing at Deal for their raid on Zeebrugge on St George's Day 1918, HM King George V also visited the Depot and witnessed recruit training. He was much impressed with what he saw and on completion directed that the senior squad of recruits under training should be designated "The King's Squad". As a mark of distinction it is customary for members of the squad to wear a white lanyard on the left shoulder of their blue uniform and to the chinstrap of their cap 'down below the chin. At one time of the highlights of the Royal Tournament was a drill display by the King's Squad of the Royal Marines. This was regularly up until 1959, but since then these displays have only been performed in 1980 and 1990. Today the senior recruit troop at the Commando Training Centre RM, Lympstone is titled "The King's Squad".



### THE KINGS BADGE

Soon after his visit to Deal, HMS The King further directed that the best recruit in the King's Squad should be awarded 'The King's Badge', "*provided he reaches the required standard*". The senior recruit receives his badge from the Inspecting Officer at the Squad's passing out parade. The badge, which consists of the Cypher of King George V (GvR) within a laurel wreath, is worn at the top of the left sleeve. It is worn throughout his service, in all orders of dress no matter what rank he later attains.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## LANYARDS

All ranks serving in Commando units wear coloured lanyards on their right shoulder. These lanyards are:

Maroon:	Headquarters Commando Forces
Green:	Headquarters 3 Commando Brigade
Light Blue:	40 Commando
White:	42 Commando
Red:	45 Commando
Navy Blue:	Commando Logistic Regiment
Old Gold and Red:	Commacchio Group

## FREEDOMS

**Deal** The Freedom of the Borough of Deal was bestowed on the Corps in February 1945, and a Royal Marine was later included as a Supporter in the Borough's coat of arms.

**Chatham** The Freedom was bestowed on the Corps in December 1949, just before the Barracks closed. The last Colours of Chatham Division are laid up in Rochester Cathedral.

**Plymouth** The Freedom of the city was bestowed on the Corps in May 1955 on the 200th anniversary of the Corps permanent association with the city.

**Portsmouth** The Freedom of the city was bestowed on the Corps in May 1959, when the Captain General accepted it on behalf of the Corps.

**Poole** The Corps became Honorary Freeman of the borough and Country of The town of Poole in September 1973.

**Stanley** (Falkland Islands) Because of their unique association with the Falklands Islands the Freedom was bestowed on the Corps in December 1976.

**Exeter** Their long standing connections, going back over 300 years, was recognised when the Freedom of Exeter was bestowed on the Corps in April 1977.

**Medway** Although the Corps had already received the Freedom of Chatham in 1949, on the creation of the new Borough of Medway (which included Chatham), the Royal Marines were admitted as Honorary Freemen in May 1979.

**Newcastle** The Freedom of the City of Newcastle was bestowed on the Corps on 25 October 1989, commemorating 180 years of close association between the Royal Marines and the City.

**Exmouth** The Corps was adopted by Exmouth Urban District Council in May 1968 and this has since been reaffirmed by the new Borough.

**City of London** It is often erroneously believed that the Royal Marines have the Freedom of the City of London. No Regiment has such a distinction.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

However, from the Corps origins in the Trained Bands of the City of London, they were permitted to recruit from within the city bounds and therefore, along with other selected regiments, are permitted to march through the City “*with drums beating, Colours flying and bayonets fixed*”. The Corps was affiliated to the Church of St Lawrence Jewry, Guildhall on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1974.

### ASSOCIATIONS WITH LIVERY COMPANIES



#### **Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers**

The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers adopted the Corps in March 1949. The Stationers' Trophy is awarded to the best trainee clerk or stores accountant who qualifies each year and the Cox Cup to the best student on IT/IS training courses each year at the Signal and Clerks Training Wing at the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone. The first colours to be presented to 45 Commando RM are laid up in Stationers' Hall.



**MASTERS OF  
THE COMPANY**

#### **Honorable Company of Master Marines**

The Honourable Company of Master Mariners adopted the City of London Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve (now RMR) in 1953. His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General Royal Marines, is a Warden of the Court of the Master Mariners. Since 1964 the Commandant General has been an Honorary Member of the Company during his appointment.



#### **Worship Company of Musicians**

The Worshipful Company of Musicians present a silver medal annually, which is awarded to the best student in the Bandmasters' Class at the RM School of Music. Another silver medal and bronze medal, known as the Cassel Prizes, are awarded to the winner and runners-up in an annual competition for musicians under training at the RM School of Music.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION



### **Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers**

The Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers make an award to the best trainee armorer who qualifies each year in the Technical Training Company at Royal Marines Poole.



### **Worshipful Company of Plaisterers**

The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers in 1983 presented to the Corps a painting of SS Canberra during the landings at San Carlos. This painting is now in the Officers Mess at CTCRM, Lympstone. Since 1985 the Commandant General has been an Honorary Member of the Company during his appointment.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### TRADITIONS AND FACTS

#### POSITION IN LINE

A Horse Guards Order of 1820 decreed *“that the Royal Marines, when acting with troops of the Line, shall take their station next to the 49th Regiment”*. When the ten regiments of Marines, who numbers were from 44 to 53, were disbanded in 1748, the remaining regiments of Marines were re-numbered and 49th was the last regiment raised before the Corps of Marines was revived in 1775. However when the Royal Navy is on parade, the Royal Marines take precedence with them on the right of the line.

#### CUSTOMS

**King George VI Candlesticks:** When HM King George VI dined with the Officers of the Corps at the Savoy Hotel on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1949, each officer’s mess of the Corps provided a pair of candelabra. On that occasion the candles were lit just before the Loyal Toast. HM The King expressed a wish that, in future at regimental dinners, after the table has been cleared and the port passed, the lighting should be doused and the King’s Candles lit in what is an exclusive ceremony to the Royal Marines.

**Loyal Toast:** To mark the tercentenary of their formation, HM Queen Elizabeth II dined with the officers of the Royal Marines at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1964. At the instigation of Admiral of the Fleet, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma (then Chief of the Defence Staff), The Queen granted the privilege of drinking the Loyal Toast seated to the Royal Marines when in their own messes. This privilege extends to the Sergeants and JNCO’s Messes.

#### NICKNAMES AND SAYINGS

**Jollies:** This was the original nickname of the Trained Bands of the City of London who provided many of the recruits for the Regiment of Sea Soldiers.

**Royal:** Naval mess-deck slang for a Royal Marine.

**Lobsters:** A very old nickname for a soldier and the RMLI (Red Marines from their scarlet tunics) become known as ‘Lobsters’, while the RMA (Blue Marines from their blue tunics) were ‘Unboiled Lobsters’, a term seldom heard today.

**Bootneck:** A term deriving its origins from the leather ‘stock’ which was served out to any soldier to fasten round his neck inside the collar. Bluejackets used to say *‘Take my sea boots off your neck’* implying that a piece had been cut from his boot to serve this purpose. The expression is now used widely to mean a Royal Marine.

**Leatherneck:** A term derived from Bootneck but normally applied to the United States Marine Corps and the title of their monthly magazine.

**Dead Marine:** Meaning an emptied wine bottle. Lt-Col W P Drury RMLI, a well known writer of naval stories and playwright, relates that the Duke of Clarence used the expression at a dinner party and when a Colonel of Marines looked annoyed, the future King William IV explained that *‘He has done his duty once, and is ready to do it again’*.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

**Tell It To The Marines:** Meaning that only a Marine would be credulous enough to believe anything. There are a number of possible origins. Colonel Drury told the story that King Charles did not believe his attendants at court when they said that while serving in the South Seas they had seen fling fish. Drury later admitted that this was a figment of his imagination. Nevertheless the Corps would like to feel that there is enough truth in this concept as Marines who had served all over the world could verify or believe any 'wild' story.

**Major:** A title formerly given in a warship to the Captain of Marines.

**Soldier:** A nickname given by the wardroom to the Subaltern of Marines.

**Sergeant-Major:** A title given to the Senior NCO of a ship's detachment. He traditionally reported to the captain of a ship each day that *'all clocks are wound'*.

### AFFILIATED REGIMENTS

**The Queen's Regiments:** Formed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1966 by an amalgamation of a number of Home Counties regiments, including the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, which was itself an amalgamation in 1959 of the Queen's Royal Regiment West Surrey and the East Surrey Regiment. Although both Surrey regiments served as Marines during their early history, the Royal Marines particular connection was with the East Surreys who were raised in 1702 as Villier's Marines. In 1948 the Officers and Warrant Officers Class 1 were authorised to wear the Blue Lanyard, a custom continued in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion of the Queen's Regiment.

**The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders:** Early connections date from Balaclava in the Crimean War and Luck now during the Indian Mutiny, but the main association stems from World War 2. In July 1940, after the fall of Dunkirk, the 8th Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders served with the Royal Marines Brigade for over a year. When HMS *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* were sunk in December 1941, the Royal Marine survivors joined up with the remnants of the 2nd Bn A & SH in the defence of Singapore, to form what became known as 'The Plymouth Argyll's', after the association football team, derived from both ships being Plymouth manned. The composite battalion was first commanded by Lt-Col I M Stewart A & SH and subsequently by Capt R G S Lang RM for the last five days before they were taken prisoners. The Corps inter-unit rugby football trophy is the 'Argyll Bowl'.

**1st Infantry Battalion (City of Sydney's Own Regiment) Commando:** An alliance with the Royal Marines was approved by HM Queen in February 1960, whilst No 2 Company of the Regiment has an affiliation with 45 Commando RM.

### THE ROYAL MARINES PRAYER

O Eternal Lord God, who through many generations hast united and inspired the members of our Corps, grant Thy blessing, we beseech Thee, on Royal Marines serving all round the GLOBE. Bestow Thy CROWN of Righteousness upon all our efforts and endeavours, and may our LAURELS be those of gallantry and honour, loyalty and courage.

We ask these things in the Name of Him, whose courage never failed. Our Redeemer.  
Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### THE MARINE CADET PROMISE

I PROMISE TO SERVE MY GOD, THE QUEEN, MY COUNTRY AND THE SEA CADET CORPS AND TO OBEY THE ORDERS OF MY SUPERIOR OFFICERS. I WILL ALWAYS DO MY DUTY, BE PROUD OF MY UNIFORM AND WEAR IT LIKE A ROYAL MARINE.

### HONORARY APPOINTMENTS AND THE COMMANDANT GENERAL

#### The Captain General

In 1953 HM The Queen honoured the Corps by appointing HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, as Captain General of the Royal Marines in succession to the late King George VI. Since the 16th Century the title Captain General has been used for those 'invested with considerable command'. As Captain General, the Duke of Edinburgh wears Royal Marines uniform, with badges of rank of a Field Marshal. He takes an active interest in the Corps, pays regular visits to formations and units and is kept informed of the Corps activities.

#### Colonels Commandant

HM The Queen may appoint four Colonels Commandant, which are honorary appointments held for four years, normally by retired Royal Marines Generals. One of these is appointed Representative Colonel Commandant, for two years, to carry out mainly formal duties. One of the others is the President of the Royal Marines Association. Colonels Commandant may wear either the uniform of their rank on retirement or that of a General Officer but with Colonel's badges of rank.

#### Life Colonel Commandant

From August 1965 until his brutal assassination by the IRA in August 1979, Admiral of the Fleet, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was the first ever Life Colonel Commandant. It marked his long and proud association with the Corps. In World War 2, as Chief of Combined Operations, he suggested the commitment of the Royal Marines to the Commando role. Later as First Sea Lord and Chief of the Defence Staff he ensured the future of the Corps.

#### Honorary Colonel

On 5th May 1981 Crown Prince Harald of Norway (now King Harald V of Norway) was appointed an Honorary Colonel in the Royal Marines by HM The Queen. He is the first member of a foreign Royal household to be appointed an Honorary Colonel in the Royal Marines and it further strengthened the ties which the Corps had developed over the previous 40 years with Norway.

#### Commandant General

The Royal Marines is commanded by the Commandant General Royal Marines (CGRM), whose rank is that of Lieutenant General. He is normally appointed for three years. His headquarters moved to Whale Island, Portsmouth on 1st April 1993 and he is directly responsible to the Commander-in-Chief Fleet.

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## REGIMENTAL BADGES AND THE GREEN BERET Cap Badge

Since the amalgamation of the RMLI and the RMA in 1923, the badge for Officers and Warrant Officers has been in two parts.

The gilt lion and Crown (irreverently the 'dog and basket') is separate from the lower part of the badge.

The badges of Officers and Warrant Officers 1 have a silver globe and gilt laurels; whilst the badge of WO 2s have a gilt globe.

The all gilt badge of other ranks has the crown and lion attached.

Cap badges are normally anodised to stay bright without polishing, but bronze badges are worn with combat dress.



*General Officers*



*Brigadiers & Colonels*



*Officers & WO 1s*



*Warrant Officer 2*



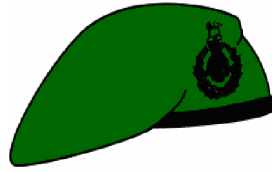
*Other Ranks*



# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET

## MARINE CADET SECTION

### GREEN BERET



The Corps unique esprit de corps is derived from the commando ethos. The word originated in the Boer War, where a Commando was a small self-sustained fighting unit which carried everything it needed with it, and which conducted highly effective raids against its enemy - the British.

During the early days of Commandos, the men continued to wear their own regimental headdress and cap badge. There were 79 different ones in No 1 Commando alone! Towards the end of 1942, the officers of this Commando decided that matters should be regularised and that a beret would be most practicable. The Royal Tank Regiment had worn a black beret for many years and the recently formed Parachute Regiment had chosen a red one. No 1 Commando's flash was a green salamander going through fire which gave a choice between green, red and yellow. Green was deemed to be the most suitable and a local firm of tam-o-shanter makers in Irvine (Ayrshire) produced a beret made from some green cloth of the colour worn today. The beret has been worn since that date by Royal Marines, it symbolises a tradition of self-discipline, with a determination to win; and is feared by enemies for the fighting prowess of its wearers.

The Coveted Green Beret (CGB) is a distinctive hallmark of the commando troops, indicating that those who wear it have attended and passed a gruelling and physically demanding test of endurance, by displaying the commando qualities of teamwork and cheerfulness in the face of adversity.

Presented to those men who have passed all the commando tests. Worn by Royal Marines, Army Commandos and Royal Navy Commandos. The CGB was first worn in 1942 by Number 1 Commando. In addition to the Green Beret Royal Marines and Royal Naval ranks wear a Commando Flash to identify them, while Army ranks wear the Brigade insignia of a Commando Dagger on their left sleeve.

All Commando training is conducted at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines Lympstone Nr Exmouth Devon. Royal Marine Recruits complete 30 weeks basic training, the longest for infantry soldiers in the world, Royal Marine Officers spend 14 months at Lympstone. Both must pass a separate commando course (4 weeks) successful completion entitles them to wear the Green Beret. Navy and Army ranks who are to serve with the Brigade generally complete the All Arms Commando Course (AACC) this comprises the same four weeks training as the Royal Marines with an additional short basic infantry skills phase.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

HANNAH SNELL

Hannah Snell  
Alias James "Jemmy" Gray  
1723 - 1792



Hannah Snell was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1723 at Friar Street, Worcester. She was the daughter of a hosier and the Grand Daughter of a professional soldier who had been killed Malplaquet.

In 1740 at the age of 17 she was orphaned and therefore travelled to Wapping in London to live with her elder sister Susannah Gray. It was there that she met and fell in love with a young Dutch Seaman named James Summs and all his stories of service in the Marines.

In January 1742 at the age of 19 they married and quite soon after Hannah became pregnant, however seven months after getting married Hanna's husband returned to sea and subsequently vanished.

Hannah convinced herself that her husband had been press ganged into the Army or Navy, so when her daughter Unfortunately died prematurely at the age six months old she borrowed her brother in laws clothes to disguise herself as a man and by binding up her breasts, she also assumed her brother in law's name (James "Jemmy" Gray) and set out to try and find her wayward husband.

James Gray (Hannah Snell) arrived in Coventry where troops were mustering after the 1745 rebellion and enlisted in Guise's Regiment of Foot, which were the forerunners of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. With the background of a military family she probably realised this was the only way to travel.

"James Gray", who looked a sturdy figure with a fresh complexion, marched to Carlisle with the Regiment but fell foul of a Sergeant who put her on a charge alleging "Neglect of Duty". She was subsequently sentenced to 600 lashes, but this was generously reduced to a mere a 500. Hannah was tied to the barracks gate, which probably concealed her chest and took her punishment.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

Hannah later deserted not just because of the injustice she had suffered but because she recognised a recruit from Worcester as a former neighbour who might have betrayed her.

She stole civilian clothing and made her way to Portsmouth where she joined Frazer's Regiment of Marines. At that time an expedition was being prepared for the East Indies.

As a Marine she boarded the sloop "HMS Swallow" and sailed cheerfully to the notoriously dangerous and unhealthy location. It is amazing that despite the conditions of shipboard life, with cramped space, poor rations and interminable boredom, she was able to keep her secret. Indeed she was so well thought off that she was appointed Mess Sergeant.

The Fleet's objective was an attack on the French post at Pondicherry on the Indian coast south of Madras. Hannah was one of 2,500 troops sent to reduce a fort. Again she won the respect of her comrades for steady courage. On one occasion she calmly shot dead one of a French patrol, which had killed Marines while they landed stores. Later Hannah forded a river, chest deep, with other troops to capture a French stronghold.

In an all out offensive Hannah fired off 37 aimed shots before suffering multiple wounds herself, six in one leg and five in the other. Worse still, she had a musket ball in the groin which she did not mention to surgeons realising that her sex would be discovered immediately, so with the aid of a negro woman servant, she managed to locate and extract the ball herself.

Three months later she was discharged as being fit for duty, but more trouble was in store in this extraordinary adventure.

On the Man-o-War "Eltham" bound for Bombay, the Chief Officer noted that Marine Gray had a fine voice and ordered her to sing for him.

Hannah protested that it was no part of a soldier's duty to sing and was subsequently clapped in irons for five days and given 12 lashes. This time she managed to conceal her sex by tying a large handkerchief around her neck and spreading it across her chest.

Throughout her extraordinary adventure Hannah never failed to make enquiries about her missing husband, and on the return voyage to London, the ship called at Lisbon. She learned that a man called "Summs" had murdered someone in Genoa and had been killed by being thrown into the sea in a weighted sack.

Her reason for posing as a man had vanished, so when the ship docked in Portsmouth on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1750 Hannah travelled with the Marines to London before abandoning her disguise and returned to wearing female clothing.

Hannah presented a petition to the head of the British Army, The Duke of Cumberland, requesting financial recognition for her service so while the military were examining the truth to her claim she not surprising became a personality and appeared in a double role theatre act giving drill displays as "Bill Bobstay" a sailor, and "Firelock" a soldier.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

Finally the Army accepted Hannah's claim and awarded a Sovereigns Grant for I and a Chelsea Pension. She leased a tavern in Wapping, which was known as "The Female Warrior", and or "The Widow in Masquerade"

In 1759 at the age of 36 Hannah married her second husband Samuel Eyles and after his death she married her third husband Richard Hadgood in 1772 at the age of 49.

Finally Hannah's story finishes when on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1792, at the age of 69 one of Britain's best-known female soldiers, dies in the notorious lunatic asylum, Bedlam. She was buried in Chelsea Hospital graveyard

### THE COCKLESHELL HEROES - OPERATION FRANKTON

#### Roll Of Honour:

Marine James Conway  
Marine Robert Ewart  
Corporal A.F.Laver  
Marine W. H. Mills  
Lieutenant J.W. Mackinnon  
Marine David Moffatt  
Corporal C. G. Sheard  
Sergeant Samuel Wallace  
Monsieur Lucien Gody  
Monsieur Maurice Rousseau  
Monsieur René Rousseau (16 ans)

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN Chief of Combined Operations  
In the foreword to the book "Cockleshell Heroes" Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mounbatten of Burma wrote:

"Of the many and dashing raids carried out by the men of Combined Operations Command, none was more courageous or imaginative than "Operation FRANKTON".  
An immense amount of trouble was taken over the training of the small handful of picked Royal Marines who took part under the indomitable leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel ((sic) (Major) Hasler. They maintained their object in spite of the frightening losses of the first night and the subsequent ever-increasing difficulties they encountered. Although the force had been reduced to four men, the objective was finally achieved.

The account of this operation brings out the spirit of adventure always present in peace and war among Royal Marines. It emphasizes the tremendous importance of morale - pride in oneself and one's unit - and what a big part physical fitness plays in creating this morale. It also stresses the need for careful detailed planning of operations.

I commend it to all as an account of a fine operation, carried out by a particularly brave party of men."

# MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

## THE HISTORY OF THE SEA CADET CORPS

The Corps has probably the longest continuous history of any youth organization in the country, but like most British institutions it has evolved haphazardly. A few of the landmarks in its long development are summarized here for interest.

**1856** - The Sea Cadet Corps was first formed in 1856 by a number of seamen returning from the Crimean War. They started a 'Naval Lads Brigade' at **Whitstable** in Kent, where boys could learn the elements of seamanship and naval discipline.

**1899** - The Corps as an organisation grew and in 1899, the Navy League initiated the first Navy League Boy's Naval Brigade.

**1914** - The Navy League applied to the Admiralty for recognition of its 34 Brigades.

**1919** - This was granted subject to an annual efficiency inspection by an Officer on the Staff of the Admiral Commanding Reserves and the title **Navy League Sea Cadets Corps** was adopted.

**1939** - The Corps had increased to 100 units, with strength of 10,000 cadets.

**1942** - In February 1942 the Admiralty (now called Ministry of Defence Navy) realised the tremendous value of the Corps as a source of semi-trained manpower for the Fleet, thousands of cadets were partially trained as Telegraphists and Signalmen before joining the Navy for wartime service. The Admiral Commanding Reserves took over the Scheme which became known as the "Bounty Boys" Scheme, each Unit receiving a "Bounty" for every boy it trained for service with the Royal Navy.

HM King George VI became the Admiral of the Corps, Officers were appointed in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) and the Corps was renamed **The Sea Cadet Corps**.

In the same year, towns and cities up and down the country operated warship weeks and raised funds to adopt a warship. In many cases a cadet unit was started at the same time, and usually with the same name as the adopted warship. The Corps strength had improved to a total of 50,000 cadets in 400 units. The Corps is not a pre-Service organisation, but is run with the naval discipline and is recognised and assisted by the Royal Navy.

Also in 1942 a girls organisation was started in Bromley, Kent, and was called '**The Girls' Naval Training Corps**' and was formed as a part of the National Association of Girls' Corps. The girls' organisation spread throughout the Southeast part of England.

**1947** - Co-sponsorship of the Sea Cadet Corps by the Navy League and the Admiralty was embodied in an agreement known as the Sea Cadet Charter. The Admiralty undertook support of 22,000 Cadets, to supply uniforms, boats, training facilities, travel expenses and limited pay for RNVR appointed Adult Staff.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

**1950** - The Girls Naval Training Corps were now 50 Units strong and in the late 1950's changed their name to the ***Girls Nautical Training Corps (GNTC)***.

**1955** - In 1955 the Commandant General of the Royal Marines expressed a wish to form a Marine Cadet Section to be fitted into the existing organisation. In 1956 Marine Cadet Detachments were formed in selected units. The Marine Cadet Section began with 5 detachments in 1956. In addition to all the training activities followed by the Sea Cadets the Marine Cadet Section also train in land aspects, including fieldcraft, ceremonial, shooting and adventure training.

**1963** - The Sea Cadet Council agreed to sponsor the GNTC and it became affiliated to the Sea Cadet Corps, in many cases sharing premises with local Units.

**1964** - The Marine Cadet Section had increased its strength from 5 Detachments to 40 Detachments.

**1976** - In 1976 the Navy League was renamed the ***Sea Cadet Association***. The title of Admiral Commanding Reserves lapsed and his functions, including responsibilities for the Sea Cadet Corps were transferred to the Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, who is based in Portsmouth, the ***Sea Cadet Charter*** was revised and was replaced by the ***Memorandum of Agreement***.

**1980** - On 31st March the Ministry of Defence (Navy) approved the admission to the Sea Cadet Corps of the Girls Nautical Training Corps, who were formally known as the Girls' Naval Training Corps, and now have a total of 200 units as an integral part of certain units within the Sea Cadet Corps.

**1986** - All limits on the number of Girls Contingents was removed by the MoD (N) and replaced by a limit of 35% of girls in the Corps overall.

**1992** - Over 300 Units contained girls. The successful integration of the boy and girl cadets and their adult leaders over the previous eleven years led to the logical step of discontinuing the separate Girls Nautical Training Contingents from 1st January. Sea Cadets, male and female, now became entitled to identical training; adult Sea Cadet Staff, male and female, became entitled to the same opportunities, insignia, rank nomenclature and pay.

**1993** - HRH The Duke of York become the Admiral of the Corps. The Sea Cadet Corps received the Corps Colour from the Admiral of the Corps.

**1994** - The International Sea Cadet Association was formed to encourage international exchanges, to foster the ethos world-wide and to stimulate the formation of new Corps. Founder Members were: United Kingdom, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, South Africa, Sweden and the United States of America.

**1995** - The Sea Cadet Association was re-constituted as a Company as well as a National Charity.

## MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADET MARINE CADET SECTION

**1997** - The Second Sea Lord approved the change of title of the Captain of the Sea Cadet Corps to **Commodore Sea Cadet Corps**, to bring the Sea Cadet Corps into line with the Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Air Training Corps (ATC).

**1999** - The title **Commodore Sea Cadet Corps** was changed to **Commodore Sea Cadets**.

**2004** - The Sea Cadet Corps merged with the Marine Society.

**2005** - The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marine Cadet Section. A parade at Longmoor Training Camp took place with 400 Staff and Cadets.