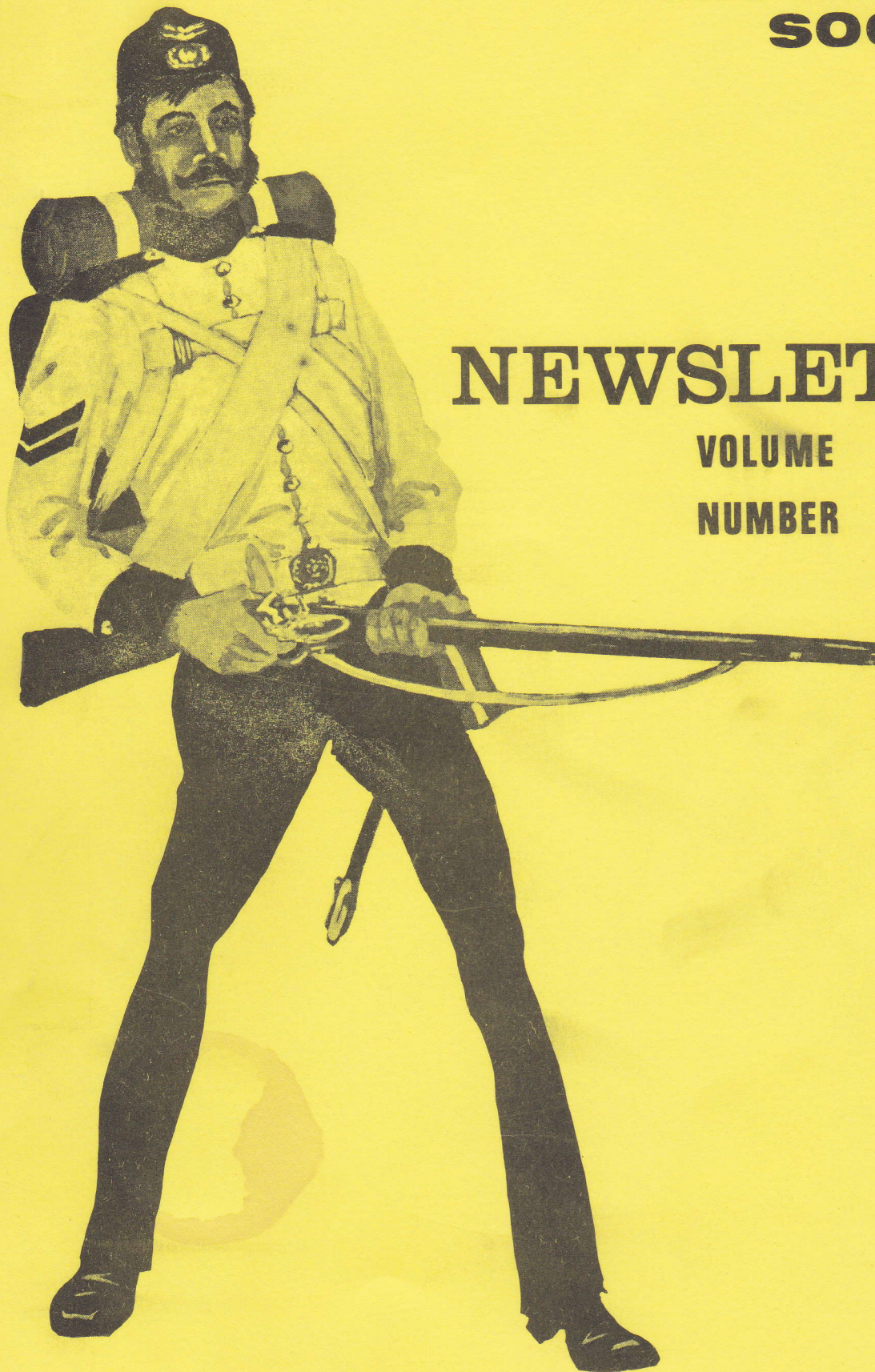


**ROYAL MARINES
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 1

ROYAL MARINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME III NUMBER 1

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Fortunately all the copy for this Newsletter was available to me before the recent Postal Strike, so that this edition should reach members well before the Annual General Meeting of the Society on Saturday 17 April 1971.

A small trickle of unsolicited material, suitable for publication in article form is beginning to arrive at my desk, which is an encouraging sign. However, as a precaution I have approached various members suggesting projects, peculiar to their own particular fields of interest, which I hope will produce further material in the future. Nevertheless, I trust that other members will contribute to the Newsletter during the course of this year, in which I intend to publish four Newsletters. The closing dates for articles for the remaining three editions are:

Volume III	No 2	24 May 1971
Volume III	No 3	23 August 1971
Volume III	No 4	25 October 1971

If any member wishes to purchase duplicate copies of the Newsletter, there is a limited quantity of 'back numbers' available. Those who are interested should write to:

Mr Harry Playford
90 Ophir Road
Portsmouth
Hants

The prices of these back numbers, including postage, are:

Volume I	Numbers 1, 2 and 3	2s. 6d. (12½p)
Volume II	Number 1 and 2	5s. 0d. (25p)
Volume III	Number 1 and subsequent editions	5s. 0d. (25p)

I regret the omission of a key to the family tree of Colour Sergeants badges, which appeared in the last edition (Volume II Number 2). This was due to a breakdown in communications between myself (at RMB Eastney) and the Printers (at CTCRM Lympstone). The matter is rectified under Errata in this edition.

T I SCOTT-BELL
Royal Marines Museum
Royal Marines Barracks
Eastney
Southsea
Hampshire
PO4 9PP

CORPS MUSEUM NOTES

BY

THE CURATOR

Once again it is my pleasing duty to report the acquisition, either by gift or purchase, of a number of interesting items of Corps Historical interest, of which the following are worthy of special mention:

- a. A Winchester repeating rifle model 1883 picked up in Tientsin on 14 July 1900 by Captain Mullins RMLI. It was presented by him to The Depot RM in 1904 who have now donated it to the Museum.
- b. The old 'C' Troop flag of 42 Commando which later became the first 'K' Company flag on the change to Company organisation. The flag has the original "Cobra" design and was used in Kuwait and Brunei.
- c. A carved slate displaying the Arms of the Transvaal and Orange Free State made and signed by a Boer POW for the Commandant of Green Point POW Camp, Cape Town, then Lieutenant Colonel H C Money RMLI, together with a silk colour of the Orange Free State pre 1900 made specially for President Kruger by Boer women compatriots and also presented to Lieutenant Colonel Money. A signed and framed photograph of President Kruger completes this collection of the Boer War which was purchased for £50.
- d. The POW diary kept by ex-Marine P G Dunstan during his period as a Japanese POW from December 1941 to September 1945 after the sinking of HMS PRINCE OF WALES in December 1941.
- e. A framed and glazed colour print of "Marines 1742", and a coloured framed print published in 1797 of the bravery of Captain Strangeways on HMS GLATTON in 1796. These were both presented by a very great friend of the Museum and member of the Society, Peter Tilbury.
- f. An original oil painting by Henry Mortens de Baubrawa of a Field Officer, Ensign and Drummer, 1850. This was one of a series of "Costumes of the British Army" painted between 1844 and 1854 and produced as coloured aquatints by Rudolph Ackerman at the Eclipse Military and Sporting Gallery, Regent Street, London W.1. The print of this particular painting was No. 43 of a series of 61 and the Museum has the print. It is interesting to note that this particular painting, which was purchased for £140, was presented by Colonel S P Peile CB to his Brother Officers on his retirement 10 July 1913.
- g. A collection of militaria by Major General A D Corbet RMLI who was Colonel Commandant of Plymouth Division. (A photograph and description of these items is included in this edition of the Newsletter.) His daughter, who very kindly presented these items to the Museum, has informed me that there is more to follow.
- h. A collection of musical instruments, band programmes and miscellaneous photographs from the Royal Marines School of Music. These have been incorporated in the band section.
- j. A sworn affidavit dated 10 June 1766 of a stabbing incident by a Marine at Portsmouth, attested by the Mayor of Portsmouth at the time, John Carter.
- k. An interesting set of tiles on which are painted the family portraits of Lieutenant Colonel Lennox George Rodney RMLI, the grandson of Admiral Rodney.
- l. A parka and miscellaneous items relating to 41 Independent Commando in Korea kindly donated by Lieutenant Colonel P R Thomas.
- m. The bayonet of Sergeant Prettyjohn VC, presented to the Corps by Squadron Leader Wildman, the great grandson of Prettyjohn, at a civic concert at Stafford on 15 February 1970. (A photograph and details of this bayonet are included in this edition of the Newsletter).

n. Several medals including those awarded to Lieutenant General Sir Robert Sturges, the Croix de Guerre to Colour Sergeant John Mulligan, DSMs to Bandmaster Owen, Musician Flippance, Marines Barningham and McDonald, the DSO, CMG and Gold Legion of Honour (French) to Lieutenant Colonel H F Montgomery seven NGS campaign medals pre 1848, a New Zealand Medal 1863-4, a Canada GSM 1866 and the Military Medal awarded to Corporal W J Lester at Limbang, (Brunei).

o. A piece of the Fore Topsail of HMS VICTORY made in September 1805 and used at the Battle of Trafalgar.

During the coming season, emphasis will be placed on the sale of the "Pitkin" brochure. This is a pictorial history of the Corps with a short text and includes a number of colour plates. This publication can be ordered from the Museum and is priced 4s. 0d. (20p) exclusive of postage.

Whilst the Museum has been enjoying a "closed period" for works improvements, the opportunity has been taken to recast displays. In summary these amount to:

- a. Extension of the Sea Service and Band Service Sections.
- b. Concentration of weapons display.
- c. Addition of recently acquired Commando and other exhibits.
- d. Re-arrangement of wall displays and show cases.
- e. Standardisation of captions.
- f. Inclusion of old Barrack lamp and RMLI/RMA sentries at the entrance.

The Museum has been "wired for sound" and visitors can now enjoy piped music from the Royal Marines Band. This is from a simple tape recorder which was wired to all floors and can give suitable background effect to any part of the Museum concurrently or individually.

I have arranged with Phillips and EMI for the sale of new RM band recordings on a retail basis. I intend to stock about 50 of each new recording as it is produced, re-ordering as necessary. The profit margin to the Museum is 25% and it is therefore to our advantage for as many people as possible to order new recordings from the Museum rather than traders!

A.G.B.

* * * * *

COUNCIL NOTES

Since the last issue of the Newsletter the Council has had two meetings at which administrative procedures were re-defined and outline plans laid for the next AGM. The AGM will be held on Saturday 17 April at Portsmouth, and it is hoped that all members will make a special effort to attend.

The membership at 31 December 1970 was 78. Members are reminded that 1971 subs are now due and it will help if these are paid quickly - preferably before the AGM.

Various items of correspondence have been dealt with and it is hoped that individual members are also writing to each other on matters of common interest - thereby fulfilling one of the aims of the Society.

A.L.B.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Graham Hennessy

Here are my comments on some items in the first Volume:

Newsletter Volume I No. 1 page 2

Letter from Nelson mentioned by Sergeant Playford did not refer to Marine Officers but to Royal Artillery Officers. Marine infantry officers were not embarked in 'bombs', so far as I can find out, and this letter is dated 13 May 1804; the RMA was formed on 18 August! It was as a result of the RA officers refusing to keep watch among other things that decided Nelson on recommending that the RMA should be formed.

There is something odd about the second letter because Fort Cumberland was not built until 1803 and not occupied by the RMA until 1823.

Newsletter Volume I No. 1 page 6 and II page 4.

I do not understand why this uniform is dated 1832 - 34. Basically this was the uniform of 1830 - 55. The plume was replaced by a tuft in 1832 and the tuft replaced by a ball in 1836. The chaco was replaced by the Albert chaco in 1845, and the lace removed from the skirts in 1849.

White linen trousers were worn from 1 May to 14 October in 1830. Grey trousers were usually worn on Saturdays.

Gibraltar is mis-spelt.

Newsletter Volume I No. 2 page 2.

'Fighting' Nicolls was not promoted rapidly. He was made Major on 8 May 1828, placed on half-pay in 1830, and RETIRED as a MAJOR on full pay in 1835. His other ranks were brevet.

Newsletter Volume I No. 3 pages 11 - 13

The RMA was always Royal Marine Artillery. These words were at first adjectives before the noun 'Companies'. In the case of the RM, the title was 'Royal Marines' later 'Royal Marines, Light Infantry' - look at the buttons.

G.G.H.

From Ross Penny

'..... was a silver RMLI cap badge ever worn, i.e. Bugle, Laurel Wreath and Globe? '

RGP

No, but there is an example of such a badge together with a pair of collar badges and RMLI shoulder titles in the Museum, which have obviously been privately silver plated by the owner as a memento.

Historian

Numbering of Pages

The last Newsletter was published without page numbers. Pages should therefore be numbered starting with the Editorial as page 1 and ending at page 29 (Hard Times).

Colour Sergeants of the Royal Marine Artillery Page 14

A numbered key was omitted from the family tree of Colour Sergeants Badges. The badges should be numbered as follows:

Top row from the left, 2, 1, 3
Centre row from the left, 4, 8, 6
Bottom row from the left, 5, 9, 7

The caption for figure 5 to be amended to read:

5. New badge for RMA introduced 1881. (Blue Cloth). This badge was worn on the right arm, above three chevrons and superseded the badge shown in the portrait shown on page 12.

Editor

* * * * *

INTERESTING ITEMS OF MILITARIA BELONGING

TO MAJOR GENERAL A D CORBET CB RMLI

Since the publication of the last Newsletter (Volume II, Number 2), which included a first hand account of the Gambia Expedition, the Museum has received a number of interesting items of militaria from the daughter of the late Major General A D Corbet CB RMLI who, it will be recalled, led No. 1 Column. Some of the more interesting items are shown in the photograph overleaf. The photograph was taken in the Uniform Room of the Museum during the period that it was closed for renovations, which accounts for the somewhat untidy background.

The items shown in the photograph are:

- Top Centre RMLI Officers Shako, last pattern 1869 - 1876, complete with Light Infantry green ball tuft.
- Lower Centre A glazed frame containing a pair of 1903 pattern RMLI Officers 'Slashed Cuffs' and RMLI Officers pattern Blue Cloth helmet plate 1878 - 1902.
- Centre RMLI Colonel Commandant's Sabretache in red Russian leather with gilt device VR and Crown. At the top right hand edge of the sabretache can be seen Major General Corbet's medals: CB (Solid Gold), East and West Africa Medal bar 'Gambia' 1894.
- Left and Right Centre A pair of RMLI Officers pattern black patent leather sabretaches (for mounted officers only) with gilt Corps device and motto. The left hand sabretache is in poor condition.
- Foreground Centre A very fine silhouette of Corbet in the Dress uniform of the RMLI early 1870's. Top right his miniature medals.



- Left Foreground RMLI Officers full Dress sash pre 1902. Gold and crimson net $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, in $\frac{1}{2}$ " alternate stripes of gold and crimson with a runner and tassels
- Inner left Foreground A hand comforter, or hand warmer. Unlikely to have been used during the Gambia expedition!
- Right Foreground RMLI Officers Undress sash pre 1902 in crimson net $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

MORE ROYAL MARINES ON CIGARETTE CARDS

BY ALASTAIR DONALD

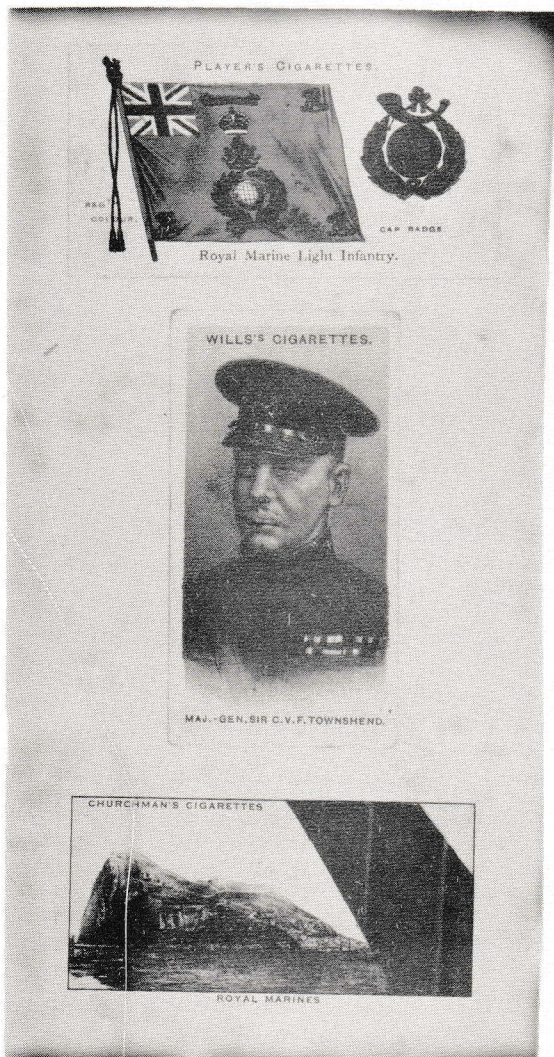
Since Sergeant Henderson raised this interesting subject by an article in Volume 2 Number 1 of the Newsletter, I have been looking for more examples. Thanks to one or two friends, who have also been searching for me, I am able to bring to light one or two more cards. In some cases my information is very sketchy indeed, but I have included as much as I know in the hope that perhaps I may whet the appetites of other interested members to carry out some minor research for fuller details and by doing so they may come across other cards not yet mentioned.

Firstly I have been loaned an album containing the Wills series "Life in the Royal Navy". The three cards of RM interest in this set were noted in the list at the end of the previous article. I am now able to include an illustration of a composite page from this album (below) showing these three cards, with details of the text on the back. This series was published in 1939.



Sergeant Henderson illustrated the Drum Major RMLI (Card No. 30) in the Gallagher set. I find that there is another in the same set - No. 56 is a Royal Marine Artillery Gunner in review order wearing the blue cloth helmet and fixing his bayonet. It is perhaps interesting to note that the paintings for this series, which was one of the earliest sets and titled "Types of British and Dominion Regiments", were executed by Harry Payne, a well known and very fine military artist. (See Note I).

The RM card from the Godfrey Phillips set "Soldiers of the King" was mentioned in the previous article. Incidentally this set was issued in 1939 and only consisted of 36 cards. Our particular card was in fact No. 1 (not No. 36 as stated in the article) and showed the Regimental Colour Officer in Review Order at St. James' Palace at the time the Corps performed London Duties in 1935. The same set had apparently also been issued under the auspices of the United Kingdom Tobacco Company in 1937 at the time of the Coronation of King George VI. A set with the same title had already been published by Ogdens in 1909 and I am told that the last card in this set of 50 is a three-quarter length coloured photograph of an RMLI Officer in either Review Order or Marching Order, with a sash over the left shoulder (i.e. pre 1902 dress). the complete set of these Ogdens cards now sells for £12.



Also illustrated are three more cards which have come to light. At the top is a card from one of about three different series issued by Players of Colours and badges. The only set which includes the Corps is that published in 1907, of which the card is "unlucky for some" (No. 13).

I wonder how many people know that the "Defender of Kut" was originally a Royal Marine. For this reason I have included in the centre Major General Sir C V F Townshend (see Note 2) Card No. 26 from the W D & H O Wills series of 50 "Allied Army Leaders" issued in 1917.

In 1934 and 1935 Churchmans issued two sets of 50 cards titled "Well Known Ties". Each card consisted of a sepia toned photograph of a building or place connected with the organisation whose tie is illustrated in colour across one corner. The bottom illustration is No. 2 of one of these sets, but I'm not sure which.

Players issued a set titled "Old England's Defenders", which I daresay was another very old set as it is priced at £35 for the 50 cards in one of the catalogues I have. This set apparently had three cards of RM interest:

No. 12	Officer 1738
No. 34	Officer 1802
No. 39	Marine 1805

Another early Players set was their "Military Series" produced in 1900, of which No. 9 was I imagine RMLI, as it showed a head and shoulders figure above crossed colours. I notice that in my latest catalogue the price for this set of 50 is £40 !!

A further series from the United Kingdom Tobacco Company was "Officers in Full Dress" which came out in 1936. I am told that one shows an RM Officer of the period with the Corps Colours over the bottom right hand corner (similar to the Churchman's set mentioned earlier).

A firm called Cohen Weenen and Company, who manufactured 'Sweet Crop' mixture, issued a set of cards which included a Private of the RMLI in blue cloth helmet and scarlet tunic leaning on his rifle.

In addition to 'cigarette' cards there have from time to time been many other similar cards issued by manufacturers of household requisites, as for instance the present cards by Brooke Bond Tea. A company, known as Salmon and Gluckstein, published a set of cards as "Traditions of the Army and Navy", which included a card showing two waistlength figures, one Artillery and the other Light Infantry. Soap was apparently sold with the aid of this type of card as Hustlers at one time had a set, one of which was, I am told, an early 18th Century Marine with buff facings standing on the deck of a ship. Barratt and Co. Ltd., whom I assume to be the confectionery manufacturers of Liquorice Allsorts fame, issued a series of 50 "Soldiers of the World". I have No. 39 "Great Britain 1805", which shows a Private of the Trafalgar period. The artwork is rather poor and does not bear comparison with the figures in the same uniform mentioned in Sergeant Henderson's article (illustrations III and IX on page 5). My catalogue shows this set as available at 25p.

I have another card of poor standard which is No. 13 of a series of 25 "British Uniforms" published in 1943 by Morning Foods Ltd. (Mornflake Quick Cooking Oats). This set was also issued by Ewbank in 1956 and, if you want one, a set will only cost you about 12p. The card shows an RM Officer in pre 1939 Review Order.

Two foreign cards have been briefly mentioned to me. One of these shows a Gunner of the RMA about 1910 and the back of the card is printed in Arabic. The other is from a German series 'Wohlauf Kameraden' (Monopol - Dresden), published about 1936, illustrating British uniforms. There are 360 in the set and card No. 186 shows Royal Marines in full dress pre 1914.

The study of silks, which were issued in the same manner as cigarette cards, is apparently almost a complete subject on its own. Many members may remember the excellent set of national flags produced by Kensitas at one time. I know of similar but smaller silks of Regimental Crests and notice from the catalogue that a firm known as Drapkin produce a set of 40 of these. Although I have quite a number of them I have not seen a Royal Marine crest. I do however have a silk of an RMLI Regimental Colour of this size but it is full of mistakes, being a mixture of the 1858 and 1894 colours and includes a gold fringe, which of course our colours did not have. Morris issued a set of 25 silks of "Regimental Colours" and I therefore assume mine to be one of these.

Looking through the catalogues one cannot help wondering how many other sets included a Royal Marines card or cards. Surely there must be a Prettyjohn, Halliday or Finch amongst the eight sets of 25 cards each called "Victoria Cross Heroes" and published by Gallaghers between 1915 and 1918. In spite of their titles, such series as these may well have a Royal Marine and there are probably many others:

Army Ribbons and Buttons (Mitchell)

Britains Defenders (Ardath)

Regimental Crests, nicknames and collar badges (Mitchell)

Soldiers of the Queen (Adkin)

Soldiers of the World (Wills)

I would welcome corrections and additions to this article together with information on any other cards not yet mentioned. This could either be sent to the Editor and published as a letter for the information of everyone. Alternatively it could be sent to me direct, in which case I would submit another article for the Newsletter at some later date and include such additions and corrections.

A. J. D.

Note: 1. See the article by R G Harris on pages 21 - 23 in the Magazine 'Tradition' No. 48.

2. See RMHS Newsletter Volume II No. 2 page 17.

ROYAL MARINES BURIED IN SINGAPORE DURING THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY

(1823 - 1862)

By Alan Harfield

Early in 1819 Sir T Stamford Raffles completed a treaty with the local Sultan of the island of SINGA PURA which resulted in the East India Company establishing a trading post on the southern side of what is now Singapore Island. In August 1824 a new treaty was made which ceded the whole of Singapore Island "... together with all small islands within ten miles of its coast, except for those in the Straits of Johore ..." to the East India Company.

With the establishment of the trading centre the need for defence became necessary and in the early years of the Colony the military forces were under command of the East India Company and continued to be so until 1858 when Her Majesty Queen Victoria assumed direct Government of her Indian Empire.

Near to the site of the trading post was a hill, known locally as Bukit Larangan or Forbidden Hill, which was the ancient burial place of the Malay Sultans of the island. It was on this hill that Raffles built his residence in January 1823 and which he used during his visits to the Colony. The hill became known as Government Hill as early as 1822 and it continued to be known as such until 1859. Colonel Collyer, of the Madras Engineers, commenced building a Fort on the hill in 1859 which was finally completed in 1861. The Fort took its name from Viscount Canning who was Governor-General of India from 1856 until 1862. The hill then became known as "Fort Canning Hill".

An early Christian graveyard was established high upon the hillside but all traces of this original cemetery have been obliterated by various rebuilding programmes - the first of which was the construction of the Fort by Collyer.

A new site was selected, lower on the hill slope, during 1823 but the cemetery was not officially used until 1826. A number of gravestones from the earlier cemetery were removed and placed in the lower cemetery but unfortunately there is no record of which stones were transferred. Initially the burials in the cemetery were restricted to the seaward side and above the level of the central path. This portion was consecrated by the Bishop of Calcutta on 6th October 1834 and was normally reserved for Protestant burials. The ground at the inland end was used for Catholic burials from 1835 onwards, but a distinct segregation was not observed until 1845. In that year the area of the cemetery was again extended to include the ground to the east of the central path. In 1846 the whole cemetery was enclosed by a brick wall and two arches were constructed, one on the seaward side and one opposite, on the land side. These arches were built to the designs of Captain Charles Edward Faber, the Superintending Engineer of the Colony. Regular burials ceased completely in the "Fort Canning" cemetery in April 1865, when the cemetery on the Bukit Timah Road was opened.

Buckley, when writing his history of Singapore in 1909, said that the conditions of the memorial stones in the old Christian cemetery were such that they were "... fast falling into pieces and the inscriptions becoming illegible...". He also suggested, at that time, that a clerk would well be employed in copying the details from the stones and the report deposited at the Library. This does not appear to ever have been done.

From a very careful search of the few memorial stones that remain today in the old Christian cemetery no trace can be found of any Royal Marine memorials. However in the present day Military cemetery at Ulu Pandan the Book of Remembrance shows the following members of the Royal Marines as having died in Singapore in the early 19th Century, and as having been buried in the Old Christian Cemetery located on what is now known as "Fort Canning Hill":

Personnel listed in Book of Remembrance

		<u>Served on:</u>
Marine W. Chappell.	Died 11 September 1849	HMS Fury
Marine J. Dayman.	Died 6 December 1847	HMS Spiteful
Marine G. Forster.	Died 29 May 1854	HMS Lily
Marine J. Gough.	Died 20 October 1848	HMS Fury
Marine W. Griffin.	Died 27 July 1834	HMS Imogene
Marine Sergeant J. Palmar.	Died 17 October 1849	HMS Arab
Marine W. Ward	Died 23 December 1843	HMS Harlequin.

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Published by Government Printing Office, Singapore.

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By Charles Burton Buckley.
Reprinted by University of Malaya Press, 1965.

Raffles of the Eastern Isles.
By C.E. Wurtzburg.
Published by Hodder and Stoughton 1954.

The First 150 Years of Singapore.
By Donald and Joanne Moore.
Published by Donald Moore Press Ltd 1969.

Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research.
Volume XXXIX.
Article "Fort Canning, Singapore".

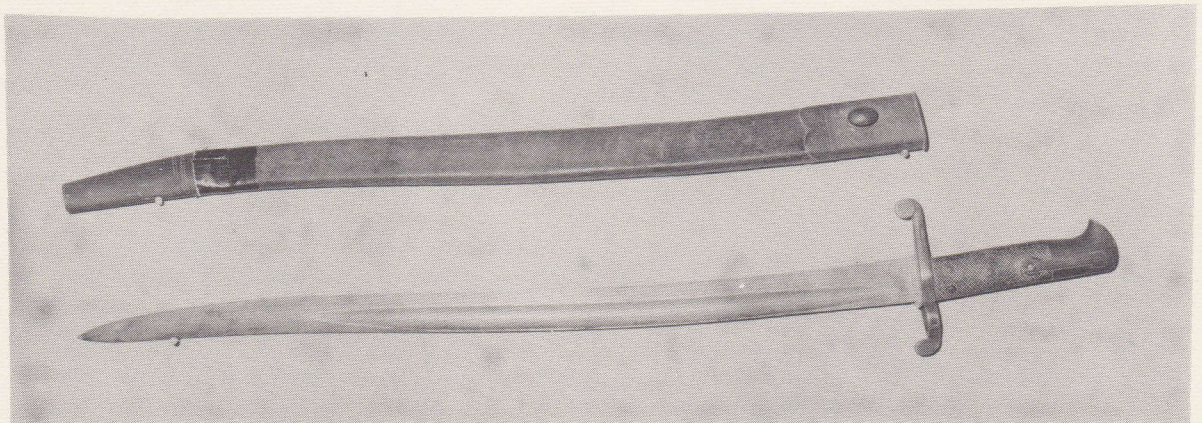




General view of the Christian Cemetery, on Fort Canning Hill - showing the Protestant area in the foreground and the Catholic area in the background.

* * * * *

The Bayonet of Sergeant Prettyjohn VC, RMLI



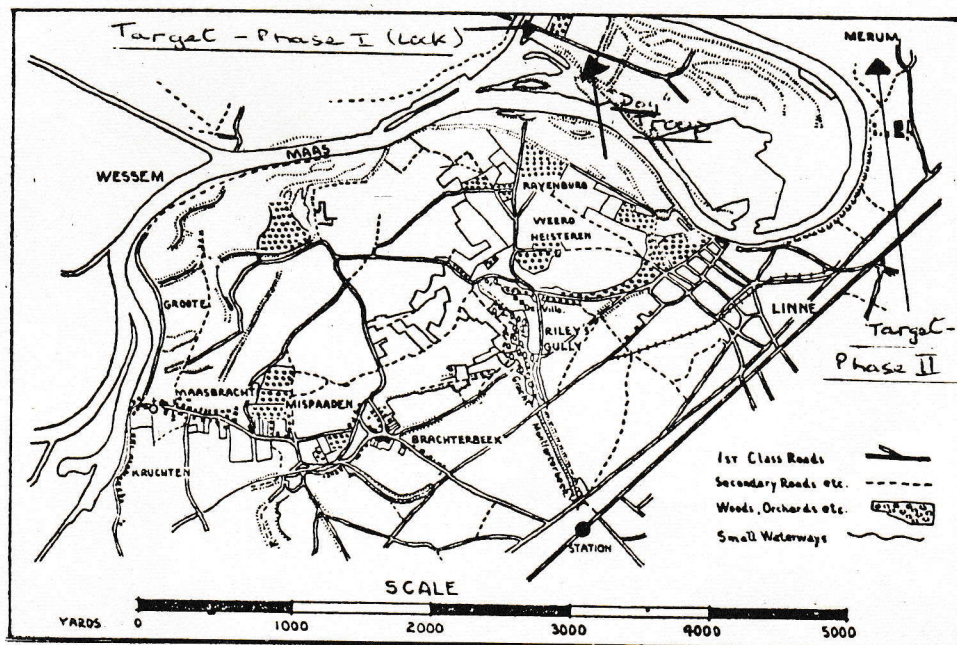
The bayonet illustrated above has recently been presented to the Museum by a direct descendant of Sergeant Prettyjohn VC. It is an 1856 Pattern sword Bayonet, P58, commonly known as a Pattern 2 for the short Lee Enfield Rifle. This bayonet which has a 23 inch blade was first issued to the Corps in 1857. Although there is no way of authenticating the bayonet to Prettyjohn, it would seem to be a fair assumption as it has been handed down through the family.

BELLE ISLE - 1945

By DAVID YOUNG

In the study of military history interest is usually focussed on to the successful battles and operations as it is these that provide the glory upon which our proud heritage is built. Belle Isle, however, was not a success and it was the first serious reverse that 45 Commando, Royal Marines, ever received in action, but even in adversity the unit displayed the kind of gallantry that has made the Commando spirit renowned throughout the world.

45 Commando was formed on 1st August 1943 and underwent the Commando Course at Achnacarry as a complete unit in November of that year. The early part of 1944 was spent in advanced amphibious and group training in preparation for the D-Day landings, in which "Four Five" participated. For the next two months the unit, part of No. 1 SS Brigade, fought a bitter war in the trenches of Normandy before the German defence finally collapsed and the Commando was able to spearhead the chase across France. In September Four Five was withdrawn from action, for rest and retraining, having lost nearly half its original numbers killed or wounded. In January 1945 it was time to return to the fray, this time in Holland. On 23rd January Four Five (Lieutenant-Colonel W.N. Gray, DSO, RM) fought the memorable action on the Montforterbeek to gain a foothold on the much vaunted German Siegfried Switch Line. It was here that the bravery of Lance Corporal Eric Harden R.A.M.C. resulted in the award of a posthumous Victoria Cross. The next target, on this bitter snow-covered terrain, was Belle Isle, so nicknamed because of its shape, which lay across the fast-flowing River Maas. Beyond Belle Isle lay the town of Merum with its German Headquarters.



The operation was planned to be carried out in two phases with the ultimate aim of a raid on Merum to gain additional information on the German forces in the area. Phase I was to be the silent capture of Belle Isle - the enemy strength was believed to be one platoon at the lock at the west of the island - and Phase II the recrossing of the Maas and the raid on Merum. The 27th January was selected as D-Day (only two days of preparation) with H-Hour at 2130 hours. It was directed that the task should be completed by 0730 the next morning. 3 Troops were assigned to the operation: D Troop (Major R.H.W. Kirby RM) was to carry out Phase I, E Troop (Captain I.N.W. Beadle MC, RM) was to cover the crossing and set up a bridge-head on the Island, B Troop (Captain J.E. Day, RM) was to undertake Phase III. Simultaneously the south-east corner of the island was to be raided by a subsection of A Troop.

Rehearsals and training were, of necessity, hasty and sledges were rapidly constructed by 1 Troop Royal Marine Engineer Commando (who were to provide the boat parties for the crossing) on which to haul the boats across Belle Isle. For the first time Four Five was to be clad in "arctic clothing" and each man on the raiding and assault parties was provided with a snow suit.

The omens for Operation Belle Isle were particularly bad. An initial recce party on 26th January was spotted half way across the river and had to pull back thus being unable to gain any further intelligence - apart from the already known fact that the island was occupied! On the night things didn't start too well either. As the tense Commandos waited eagerly for H Hour news came through that supporting Artillery communications had broken down and timings had to be put back for half an hour.

The first crossing of D Troop and the bridge-head sub-section of E Troop was successful and unopposed, however, the strong current of the icy waters of the Maas ($6\frac{1}{2}$ knots) made paddling hard work. The brilliant moonlight which reflected off the flat snow-covered fields made observation for the defenders all too easy and despite their snow suits D Troop's presence did not remain a secret for long. As the Troop approached its target the heavy firing of a violent battle could be heard, but as yet no details - radio communications had broken down again. Our own artillery and mortars then engaged their pre-planned enemy targets but the struggle on Belle Isle still seemed to continue with increasing ferocity. Now that the Germans throughout the sector had been alerted, the raid on Merum was obviously going to be too hazardous and was therefore cancelled. Instead B Troop was diverted to the task of helping to extricate D Troop so that we could withdraw from the island altogether.

The problem now was to build up enough reinforcements on the far side of the river. As it was flowing so swiftly the same number of men was required to paddle the boats back as had taken them across. A line had to be taken across as a matter of urgency. Helping B Troop in this task was a detachment of 3 Troop No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando, who were to have assisted in getting the information from Merum. Three desperate attempts were made to get the line across but the boats were being swept downstream to a distance of over 400 yards which was farther than the length of rope. The river at this point was over 100 yards wide.

By now the wounded of "Dog" Troop were beginning the painful process of dragging themselves through the snow back to the bridge-head. The sixty-strong Troop had been severely depleted. Ten dead, thirteen wounded and four in enemy hands. Those captured included Major Kirby and Lieutenant Alvey, who were both wounded and subsequently taken to German headquarters in a factory in Merum (which, incidentally, had observed the operation from the very outset). Matters were further complicated by the Germans who tried to wipe out the survivors at the bridge-head. Their efforts were largely frustrated by B Troop and the remainder of E Troop on the south bank and Marine Clark, a Bren gunner with the bridge-head group, who virtually beat off one attack single handed killing several Germans.

By now the wounded and other survivors were being evacuated but as the boats were so full those able bodied Marines, not needed for paddling, had to swim alongside the overladen craft for several minutes in the icy waters. It was truly a nightmare trip as the brave Commandos clung on to their comrades and to the sides of the boats, their bodies completely numbed by the freezing water. When the bank was reached, after what must have seemed an eternity, the Medical Section, with their traditional efficiency and sympathy, soon took care of the battle casualties and those others, soaked to the skin, suffering from exhaustion and exposure.

Throughout the night the weary Marines kept up the supporting fire whilst others toiled to and fro across the river bringing back the stragglers and piecing together what had happened to the gallant D Troop.

The night's encounter had not been entirely in vain as one party under Captain K.J. Griffiths of No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando had been able to recover a map from the body of the German Commander on the Island giving invaluable details of

German positions in the neighbourhood. It was also learnt that at least 20 Germans (The Muller Parachutist Regiment) had been killed which was no mean feat considering the disadvantages of the attacker on this occasion.

Belle Isle was by no means a fiasco but nevertheless a severe setback to an outstanding unit whose diet had been one of success. There were several contributory factors to this failure. Firstly there was very little time for preparation. Secondly the initial reconnaissance party was unable to get more information. Thirdly the two-phase plan in one night was too ambitious. Fourthly the climatic and geographical conditions which hampered the movement of one of the most important items of any military operation - the reserve. Despite this, however, Four Five was able to show in the withdrawal that it possessed all the qualities of a highly trained and disciplined unit and it was not long before it was to be back on the trail of victory again - spearheading the advance deep into Hitler's Germany.

D.Y.

David Young has recently completed a comprehensive history of 45 Commando, Royal Marines, entitled 'Four Five', which is due to be published later this year. Full details of the publication will appear in a later Newsletter.

Editor.

GALLANTRY AWARDS TO THE ROYAL MARINES 1856 - 1970

By IAN SCOTT BELL

The following chart shows a record of operational awards for gallantry made to the Corps, since the introduction of the Victoria Cross (VC), Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) and Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (CGM) during the Crimean War. As far as possible I have broken down this record to show the campaigns and minor wars in which these awards were earned. Lack of space does not permit this in the case of First and Second World War awards.

I have intentionally omitted awards of the Companion of the Bath (CB) for gallantry as this would require a great deal of extra research and in any case could well leave some scope for a future article. I believe that Major Weller, 2 i/c of the 4th Battalion RM received the last CB awarded to the Corps for gallantry, at Zeebrugge. Nor have I included awards of the Empire Gallantry Medal (EGM), the Albert Medal (AM) and various classes of the Order of the British Empire awarded operationally, as these simply fall into the "too difficult category".

All the awards shown on the chart are supported by medal rolls held in the Corps Museum. The totals of awards made are as follows:

VC	10
CGM	44
DSO	109 + 11 Bars
DCM	64 + 2 Bars
DSC	89 + 4 Bars
DSM	389 + 1 Bar
MC	136 + 7 Bars
MM	460 + 5 Bars
AFC	3
GM	5

AWARD	CAMPAIGN / WAR																			MISCELLANEOUS AFC, MC, MM, II
	BALTIK	CHINA	AFGHANISTAN 1839-42	EGYPT 1882-9	BOER 1899-1902	SUDAN 1898-1900	AFGHANISTAN (1901-2)	BOER 1901	CHINA 1900	BOER 1900	SOUTH AFRICA 1901-02	AFGHANISTAN 1901-02	AFGHANISTAN 1901-02	AFGHANISTAN 1901-02	AFGHANISTAN 1901-02	AFGHANISTAN 1901-02	AFGHANISTAN 1901-02	AFGHANISTAN 1901-02	AFGHANISTAN 1901-02	
VC	1	2							1			5	1							
CGM		1	10	9				1		1	15	7								
DSO				1	1		1	4		1	64 + 6 Bars	33 + 4 Bars		2	1 Bar	2				
DCM			2		7 + 2 Bars	1	5	1			36	8	3		1					
DSC											36 + 2 Bars	50 + 2 Bars		3						
DSM											190	194 + 1 Bar		3		1				
MC											55 + 4 Bars	54 + 1 Bar	15	3	1	3 + 1 Bar		1	1 Bar	2 2
MM											317 + 4 Bars	106 + 1 Bar	2	11	9	4	1	2	2	4
AFC											2									
GM												4								1

The first record of a "chief" to co-ordinate the administration of the Marines is in 1702, when Colonel William Seymour was appointed Brigadier General of the six Marine Regiments raised on 1st June.

His duties were "to observe that the men are comfortably quartered, that the officers are attentive to their respective departments and that the marine soldiers when embarked on board ship are supplied with proper sea-clothes and other suitable necessities".

Why Colonel Seymour was appointed to this office is not known. He had commanded one of the four Regiments of Marines in 1698, and was at that time Colonel of a regiment of foot, which was fourth in the line, and which on 23rd March 1703 was made a Regiment of Marines, in place of Colonel Mordaunt's. His regiment was later honoured with the title "Queen's Own Regiment of Marines", but reverted to a foot regiment in 1711.

Brigadier Seymour's appointment is called "Inspecting Officer of Marine Regiments" in records of 1704.

It is not known whether Brigadier Seymour gave up this post before his regiment reverted to a regiment of foot in 1711, but on 2nd November 1710, General the Earl of Peterborough was appointed "Captain-General of the Marine Forces in Great Britain". His pay was £5 a day.

The Marine Regiments were disbanded in 1713, and all the officers placed on half-pay. Between 1715 and 1739, there were four Independent Companies of Invalids with one nominal and unattached General of Marines.

Six more regiments of Marines were raised in 1739, but there is no record of the appointment of one officer to superintend them. However, Colonel Edward Wolfe, who was presumably the senior Colonel, was frequently sent instructions and told to inform the other Colonels of Marines. These six Regiments of Marines, and the four that were added in 1740, were administered presumably in the same way as Regiments of Foot, and it would have been unnecessary to have had a separate administrative commander, any more than for a group of Regiments of Foot.

When three regiments of Marines were raised in New York, Colonel Spottiswood of Virginia was appointed Commander of all three, and Colonel Blakeney was appointed his Adjutant General.

There is no record of the Admiralty appointing a chief for the ten Marine Regiments when they were placed under their control on 28th February 1747. The regiments were disbanded the next year.

In April 1755, a force of Marines was again raised, this time organised in three divisions, with a total of fifty companies. In each division, there was one Lieutenant-Colonel and one Major.

For the first eight months, there was no co-ordinating head of the Corps, and orders were sent direct to the Commanding Officers of Divisions by the Secretary of the Admiralty. But on 19th December 1755, Lt. Col. J. Paterson the commandant at Portsmouth was promoted to Colonel and he moved up to the Admiralty in London. He would appear to have been more of an adviser than a head, because the Secretary of the Admiralty continued to correspond direct with the commanding officers.

In 1759, "Blue Colonelcies" were introduced, and two flag officers were appointed, one as General of Marines at £5 a day, and the second as Lieutenant General of Marines at £4 a day. In 1760, the post of Colonel of Marines in London was abolished, and replaced by three Colonels of Marines, commanding the three divisions; these posts were held by "three sea captains, whilst waiting promotion

to Flag Rank". This practice continued until 1837.

It was not until 1771, when the Earl of Sandwich was First Lord, that Marine officers could reach the rank of Colonel-commandant. From this year until 1858, no matter what brevet or Army rank an officer held, he could become no higher than a Colonel in the Marines. There are several cases of biographies giving an officer's rank as "Colonel of Marines and Lieutenant General in the Army". In 1821, Colonels of Marines who were promoted Lieutenant General in the Army had to relinquish the command of a division. The grant of Army or brevet rank of Major General and above to Marine Officers dates from 1777.

In 1783, when the Corps was 4510 strong, the following establishment was allowed "for the proper and regular management" of seventy companies:

1 General	}	Naval Officers mentioned above
1 Lt. General		
3 Colonels		
4 Colonels-commandant, one of whom to reside constantly in London, to attend the Board of Admiralty, in the nature of adjutant general		
6 Lieutenant Colonels		
6 Majors		
3 Quartermasters		
6 Adjutants.		

In 1802, when the Corps became Royal, an official letter to the head of the Corps called him "Commandant of the Marines".

In 1809, the Corps had risen to 30,000 effective men and 1500 boys, and it was decided that the pay of the "colonel-commandant, resident in town" should be raised from £2 to £3 a day.

In 1814 the Colonel Commandant Resident in London had on his staff a captain as Assistant Adjutant-General and a captain as Secretary. On 19th July 1825, the post was changed to "Deputy Adjutant-General".

From 1831 to 1837, Sir John Savage was Deputy Adjutant-General of the Marines. In 1837, this officer had had seventy-two years service of which nine were in the 91st regiment of foot, three in the 48th regiment and sixty in the Marines. Two other colonels of Marines holding brevet major-general rank had respectively fifty-eight and fifty-three years service.

It was not surprising that the Admiralty arranged a board of survey, and as a result an Order in Council dated 21st June 1837 was issued creating six additional retirements on full pay for Colonels Commandant, as a "means of removing worn-out officers from the command of the divisions of Royal Marines".

Colonel Sir Richard Williams, who was a member of the 1837 commission for enquiring into promotion and retirement, recommended that "the senior officer of the corps, whatever his rank may be, should be a commandant-in-chief, and not only reside in London, but sit at the Board of Admiralty whenever discussions arise respecting the marines". This recommendation was not agreed, because a Lieutenant Colonel was selected as the next DAG.

In 1863, the office of Inspector General was re-established. In 1831, an Inspector-General was introduced in place of the Deputy Adjutant-General. The post was given to a civilian, who was also the Paymaster to the Royal Marines. He was made a Major-General in the Army to give him authority over the Colonels of Marines. However the D.A.G. continued to hold on to his post, and in 1836 the appointment of Inspector-General was abolished. See the Order-in-Council which follows the article. The Navy List of December 1863, contains the following entry:

Staff of the Royal Marines Forces,
7 New Street,
Spring Gardens.

Inspector General	Major General A.D. Stransham
DAG	Colonel G.C. Langley
AAG	Lt. Col. G.B. Rodney.

General Stransham was by no means the Senior officer in the Corps, there being two Generals, three Lieutenant Generals and two Major Generals above him on the seniority list. The five senior Generals were Colonels of the four RMLI and one RMA Divisions. General Stransham was relieved by Major General Travers in 1867, and the post was abolished in 1868.

It is interesting to note in passing, that in 1870 the establishment allowed twelve general officers, three in the RMA and nine in the RMLI. The appointment of Colonels of Divisions was abolished, and General Officers retired at the age of 70. The strength of the Corps at this time was 14,000.

✓ The title of the head of the Corps became Adjutant-General in 1914, General Officer Commanding Royal Marines in 1944 and Commandant General in July 1945.

It is assumed that Colonel Paterson's office was in Wallingford House, Whitehall, with the Admiralty. However when the Navy Board moved to Somerset House, the Commandant in Town had an office at 39 Cadogan Place. After 1869, the DAG was at 7 New Street, Spring Gardens with the Board of Admiralty. It is not known whether the DAG moved to the new office in Whitehall in 1906, but later on the office was moved to Dorland House. In October 1942, the Royal Marines Office moved to Queen Anne's Mansions, and moved back to Whitehall in April 1963.

G.H.H.

✓ See Gm 1945/3

11th May, 1836

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF ROYAL MARINES - THE OFFICE OF
ABOLISHED, AND A DEPUTY ADJUTANT-GENERAL APPOINTED

Whereas, by His late Majesty's Order in Council of the 19th July 1825, the Staff of the Royal Marine Corps resident in London was fixed at the following establishment viz. - a Colonel-Commandant and Deputy Adjutant-General, and an Assistant Adjutant-General; and whereas by Your Majesty's Order in Council of 31st January 1831, upon the abolition of the office of Paymaster of the Royal Marines, and the consolidation of the duties of that office with those of the Treasurer of Your Majesty's Navy and of the Deputy Adjutant-General, Your Majesty was graciously pleased to authorize the following establishment of the Staff of the Royal Marine Corps resident in London, viz. - in lieu of the Colonel-Commandant and Deputy Adjutant-General, and the Assistant Adjutant-General, an Inspector-General and a Brigade Major; and whereas the provisions of the last-mentioned Order in Council have been only partially carried into effect by the appointment of an Inspector-General, and whereas the appointments of Deputy Adjutant-General and Assistant Adjutant-General, as sanctioned by Your Majesty's Order in Council of July 1825, have nevertheless been continued until the present time; and whereas we are of opinion that the same number of officers as sanctioned by Order in Council is amply sufficient for the due performance of all the duties of the Staff of the corps resident in London, and that the office of Inspector-General is unnecessary: we therefore humbly submit to Your Majesty that Your Majesty may be graciously

pleased to rescind so much of the Order in Council of 1831 as sanctions the appointment of an Inspector-General and a Brigade-Major, and that Your Majesty will be pleased to direct that the Staff of the Royal Marines Corps resident in London may be fixed for the future at a Deputy Adjutant-General, with an allowance of one pound per idem, in addition to the pay of his rank, in lieu of all emoluments unless he shall have attained the rank of Colonel-Commandant, in which case he shall have two pounds ten shillings per diem in lieu of all pay and emoluments, and an Assistant Adjutant-General, with an allowance of twelve shillings and sixpence per diem, in addition to the pay of his rank in the corps, in lieu of all emoluments. And we would further submit to Your Majesty, in the event of the present Deputy Adjutant-General and Assistant Adjutant-General being retained, that these officers should be allowed to enjoy the pay and emoluments they are at present in receipt of, that the new rate of pay and allowances should only take effect upon the appointment of their successors.

HEADS OF THE CORPS

BRIGADIER GENERAL AND INSPECTING OFFICER

21702 Brigadier William Seymour

CAPTAIN GENERAL OF THE MARINE FORCES IN GREAT BRITAIN

2nd November 1710 General the Earl of Peterborough

SENIOR COLONEL (in London)

19th December 1755 Colonel J. Paterson (Major General in the Army)
(Post abolished in 1760)

SENIOR COLONEL (at Portsmouth)

23rd February 1761 Colonel T. Drury (Major General)

COMMANDANT IN TOWN

1 Sep 1783	Colonel J Mackenzie (Lt. General)
24 Dec 1791	Colonel H. Smith (Lt. General)
29 Oct 1794	Colonel J. Tupper (Major General)
15 Feb 1795	Colonel Wm Souter Johnston (Lt. General)
21 Dec 1803	Colonel John Campbell (Lt. General)
24 Dec 1806	Colonel John Barclay (Lt. General)
29 Apr 1814	Colonel Sir Henry Bell (Major General)

DEPUTY ADJUTANT-GENERAL

1 Aug 1825	Colonel James Campbell (Major General)
17 Mar 1831	Colonel J.B. Savage
1 Jan 1838	Lt. Col. Sir John Owen (Major General)
14 Dec 1854	Lt. Col. S.R. Wesley (Colonel)
1 Jan 1862	Lt. Col. G.C. Langley
1 Jul 1867	Colonel S.N. Lowder
10 Jul 1872	Maj. Gen. G.A. Schomberg
1 Oct 1875	Colonel G.B. Rodney
3 Sep 1878	Maj. Gen. C.W. Adair

3 Sep 1883
29 Aug 1888
29 Aug 1893
1 Mar 1900
19 June 1902
19 June 1907
26 June 1911

Maj General J.W.C. Williams
Maj General H.S. Jones
Lt. General Sir H.B. Tuson
Maj General J.I. Morris
Maj General W.P. Wright
Maj General W.T. Adair
Maj General W.C. Nicholls

ADJUTANT GENERAL (from 1914)

28 June 1916	Colonel D. Mercer
2 July 1920	Maj General G.M. Campbell
30 Nov 1920	Colonel H.E. Blumberg
31 March 1924	Colonel A.R.H. Hutchison
1 Oct 1927	Lt. General L.S.T. Halliday VC
1 Oct 1930	Maj General R.V.T. Ford
29 Sep 1933	Maj General R.F.C. Foster
10 Oct 1936	Lt. General W.W. Godfrey
2 Oct 1939	Lt. General A.G.B. Bourne
26 Jan 1943	Lt. General T.L. Hunton

*

COMMANDANT GENERAL ROYAL MARINES (from 1945)

30 Apr 1946	Lt. General R.A.D. Brooks
20 May 1949	Lt. General Sir Leslie Hollis
20 May 1952	Lt. General J.C. Westall
22 Aug 1955	Lt. General C.R. Hardy
16 Feb 1959	Lt. General I.H. Riches
19 Feb 1962	Lt. General M.C. Cartwright-Taylor
22 Feb 1965	Lt. General N.H. Tailyour
19 Nov 1968	Lt. General P.W.C. Hellings

Note: Ranks shown are on appointment. Ranks in brackets are Army or Brevet Rank.

* GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING
28 Oct 1943 Lt Gen T.L. HUNTON
7 July 1945 Lt Gen T.L. HUNTON

ROYAL MARINES ON VANCOUVER'S ISLAND 1848

From material supplied by David Ross

The photographs that follow show two sketches and two watercolours made by Lieutenant J T Haverfield RM, on Vancouver's Island in 1848, whilst serving aboard HMS Constance. The original material is held in the Provincial Archives of British Columbia and these photographs were sent to the Museum by David Ross. To include them in the Newsletter it has been necessary to re-photograph and reduce them in size, resulting in a considerable loss in definition.

The four works are interesting, for not only do they provide one of the earliest recorded views of British Columbia, but they are original sketches done on the spot by the artist. Haverfield was the Lieutenant of Marines on HMS Constance, the first British Naval ship to anchor in Esquimalt Harbour. The Constance had been sent to Vancouver's Island by Admiral Phipps Hornby to investigate the seriousness of cases of Indian aggression reported by Hudson's Bay Company Officers. Haverfield, like all military and Naval officers of his time, had some training in sketching and watercolouring. Although his work is primitive, he is able to convey the image well. Haverfield's record of service is as follows:

Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 14 October 1845 and appointed to HMS Constance on the Pacific Station 2 May 1846, sailing to Vancouver's Island in 1848. Haverfield was promoted 1st Lieutenant 27 May 1848 and in 1852 he transferred to HMS Trincomalee, and remained on the Pacific Station until September 1857. He was promoted Captain 16 September 1856 and after a three year period at home in England he joined HMS Narcissus on the Cape of Good Hope and Africa Station, 27 December 1857, returning in July 1864. He retired on 2 November 1868 with the honourary rank of Major and died in 1885.

Haverfield's old ship the Trincomalee is still afloat in Portsmouth Harbour, now known as "The Foudroyant". She is maintained by a private Trust and used as a holiday training ship for youth organisations. She has not been docked for sixty-eight years and unless money can be raised for a refit she may well have to be broken up. The rifle racks of her Royal Marines Detachment (probably used when Haverfield was on board) have been found recently in a 'glory hole' in the bilges. The original ship was named in commemoration of Hughes' victory off Trincomalee in 1782. Three ships of the line have borne this name:

1. Sloop. Prize purchased in 1799. Blown up in action 1799.
2. Sloop. Prize (Ex Gloire) taken 1801.
3. 5th rate laid down 1817. Served West Indies and North America station Crimean War returning to England in 1860s. Used as a Royal Naval Reserve drill ship first at Hartlepool and later Southampton. Sold in 1897 but requisitioned by the Royal Navy as HMS Foudroyant 1941-1947.



(Top) A Surprise. A Wood near Fort Victoria, Vancouver's Island 1848, pencil sketch $10\frac{1}{8}" \times 7\frac{1}{2}"$. The surprise mentioned in the title came in the form of gunfire from the Indians (edge of wood to the left of guns). There were no casualties and the Indians retired in good order to leave the sailors (manning the guns) and Marines (foreground and right) to do their drills. The finished watercolour (10" x 7") of the pencil sketch is shown below. The short lived hostility of the Indians soon gave way to the friendly scenes which Haverfield captures in the next two works. According to contemporary observers this incident took place a few minutes march from the Hudson Bay Company Fort and within the present city limits of the City of Vancouver.





(Top) Bivouac, a pencil sketch 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ ". The skirmish of earlier in the day seems to have passed without serious incident. The presence of the two Indian Chiefs in the foreground indicates that this meeting was of some importance. Cooking fires, freshly hung deer and a wagon marked HBC (probably containing liquor) tend to confirm that this was a festive occasion. Haverfield's eye for detail is evident here as it is easy to pick out the loose flowing Indian hairstyles, and the sailors tents in the background, etc. He was obviously impressed with the independent and ferocious Indians from the Southern tip of Vancouver's Island, showing them in the finest traditions of the "noble savage". The difference between the pencil sketch and the watercolour (10" x 7" shown below) are probably due to artistic license.



EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE BATTLE OF TAMAAI

I do not wish to bore members with Egyptian history, but I think it is necessary to give a brief outline of events which led up to the war of 1882-89, in order to place the battle of Tamaai in perspective.

After Napoleon was driven out of Egypt by the British in 1801, the control of the country was returned to the Turks. In 1840 Mehemit Ali proclaimed himself hereditary viceroy of Egypt and remained so until deposed by his son Tewfik in 1879, although by that time his title had changed to Khedive.

The degree of independence from Turkish domination enjoyed by the Egyptians during this period was superficial, and probably would have remained so had the Suez Canal not been opened in 1869, thus making it necessary for Britain and France to take a closer interest in Egyptian affairs.

By 1881 the internal affairs of Egypt were in a state of chaos. During the course of the year the Army twice mutinied for more pay, led on the second occasion by Arabi Pasha, whilst in the South Sheik Mohamed Ahmed of Dongola proclaimed himself Mahdi.

The Allies demanded the resignation of Arabi Pasha who had become Minister of War in 1882, forcing the weak and by now virtually powerless Khedive to turn to Turkey for assistance. This was too much for the British and French, who demanded more control of state affairs, and despatched a combined squadron to Alexandria in May 1882. This act provoked anti-European riots, which culminated in a rebellion and massacre on 11 July. By this time the regime had completely lost control of the situation, so that when the rebels refused to dismantle fortifications guarding Alexandria, the British Squadron bombarded the City and landed marines to restore order. For reasons best known to themselves the French opted out of this action, thus surrendering their potential share of dual control of Egypt, leaving only their financial interest in the Canal.

Arabi Pasha, by now dismissed by the Khedive, withdrew the mutinous Egyptian Army inland. The Khedive placed himself under British protection and requested that they restore law and order in Egypt.

After actions at Kassassin (August 1882) and Tel-el-Kebir (September 1882) Arabi Pasha surrendered and the Khedive was restored to power but henceforward as a British puppet.

The Egyptian Army, which was disbanded and then reformed under British Officers, attempted to quell the Mahdi in the south in 1883, but were totally unsuccessful, and so early in the following year the British Army moved into the Eastern Soudan to pacify the local rebels led by Osman Dinga.

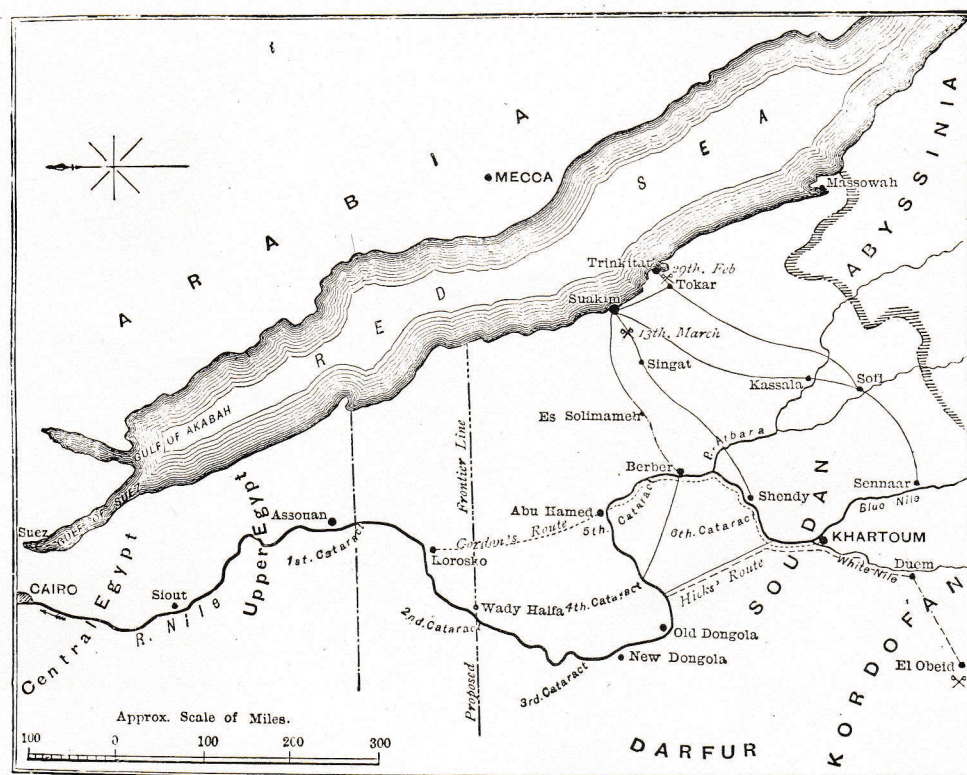
Editor

(By Captain E P Brittan RMA)

Just eleven years ago occurred the first English expedition to the Eastern Soudan. It will be remembered that the defeat of General Bakers' force (4 February 1884) at El-Teb, following as it did the annihilation of General Hicks' army at Kasghil, created a most painful impression in England.

The situation was briefly this:

Two armies led by English commanders, and officered in great measure by Englishmen had been successively destroyed; of the Egyptian garrisons of Sinkat and Tokar, one was known to have been sacrificed, and the other might share its fate any day; Suakim itself was seriously threatened.



MAP OF THE COUNTRY BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE SOUDAN.

The crossed swords and date 29 February to the South West of Trinkitat indicates the battle of El Teb. The crossed swords and date 13 March, South East of Suakim indicate the site of the battle of Tamaai.

So, on the 6th February 1884, HM's Government decided to undertake defence of Suakim, and in answer to a demand from Admiral Hewett, who was in command of the British Squadron at Suakim, promised him 500 Marines, 140 of whom were then on their way home on the Orontes from China and the East Indies, the remainder being sent at once from the ships of the Mediterranean Squadron, under the command of Major Colwell RMLI, of the flagship Alexandra.



Suakim 1884. This picture shows the Royal Marine Battalion Sick Bay just outside the city walls. Unfortunately the Museum Archives do not identify the distinguished looking gentleman second from the left.

On the 12th February, however, in consequence of a telegram announcing the fall of Sinkat, it was decided to despatch a British force to endeavour to effect the relief of the garrison of Tokar.

The command of the expedition was given to Major-General Sir Gerald Graham. Colonel Tuson CB ADC RMA, as Colonel, and Captain Poe RMLI, as Adjutant of the RM Battalion, were sent out from England, also on the 28th of February the following force was concentrated at Trinkitat:

- 2850 Infantry (including 380 RMA and RMLI)
- 750 Mounted Troops
- 150 Naval Brigade
- 100 Royal Artillery
- 80 Royal Engineers
- 6 Machine Guns
- 8 7-Pounders Royal Artillery.

On the afternoon of the 28 February, the force marched out and bivouacked at Fort Baker, and on the 29th advanced and defeated with great slaughter the rebels who were entrenched at El-Teb. On the following morning the march was continued to Tokar, which place was reached without any further fighting. On the 4 March, Sir G Graham and his force returned to Trinkitat, bringing with them the inhabitants of Tokar, and on the following morning embarked for Suakim, where the Government had decided to concentrate it, with a view to giving effect to a proclamation issued by Sir G Graham and Admiral Hewett, denouncing Osman Digna, the leader of the rebels, and calling on the rebel chiefs to submit. No answer having been received to this proclamation, another was issued on the 8 March, warning the Arabs of Sir G Graham's intention of marching on their camp at Tamaai, and again urging them to submit. In answer to this a defiant reply was received, signed by a large number of Sheiks.

The British force consisted now of the 10th and 19th Hussars, the 42nd Black Watch, the 3rd King's Royal Rifles, the 75th Gordon Highlanders, the 65th York and Lancaster, the 89th Royal Irish Fusiliers, a Naval Brigade from the ships in the Harbour, a Battalion of RMA and RMLI, the Mounted Infantry, and two Batteries of Royal Artillery.

So, on the 10th March there was a move forward nearly south from Suakim to a zeriba made some weeks before by Baker Pasha, about eight miles out; this was re-constructed and water stored there, and the 42nd Regiment was left to protect it.

At 6 p m on the 11th, the Artillery and Infantry advanced to Baker's zeriba, reaching it about 10.30 p m. The general total of the force of Artillery and Infantry amounted to 116 Officers and 3216 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

The Royal Marine Battalion included RMA and RMLI from all parts of the China, East Indian and Mediterranean Squadrons, and now totalled 14 Officers, 464 Non-Commissioned Officers and men, in six companies, under the command of Colonel Tuson, RMA; the other Officers being:

	Major Colwell, RMLI	Major	Alexandra
A Co	Bt-Major A Allen, RMA)		Temeraire
	(Bt-Major Tucker, RMA)		Superb
B Co	(Lieut Aston, RMA)		Alexandra
	)		
C Co	Lieut F White, RMLI *		Temeraire
	(Lieut Kysh, RMLI)	Company	Alexandra
D Co	(Lieut Rogers, RMLI)	Officers	Superb
	)		
E Co	Lieut Prendergast, RMLI)		Superb
F Co	Bt-Major Schomberg, RMLI)		Monarch
	Captain Baldwin, RMLI Adjutant		Euryalus
	Captain Morgan, RMLI Staff Officer to Colonel Tuson		
	Staff-Surgeon Martin, RN		
	Surgeon Cross, RN		

Lieut Kysh in addition to his Company duties, was Acting Quartermaster and Transport Officer. 34th Co Clr-Sergeant Hirst was Acting Sergeant-Major.

The troops left in camp and garrison at Suakim, consisted of the Cavalry Brigade, and Mounted Infantry, with orders to join the Infantry early next morning, and the following details left to protect the camp and town, viz, 100 Royal Marines (Artillery and Infantry), in Fort Euryalus guarding the town with five guns in position; Officers - Lieut Brittan, RMA and Surgeon McCarthy, RN; all the sick and weakly men left in charge of the main camp, the tents being left standing, under the command of Lieut-Colonel Gordon, DAAG.

At daybreak on the 12th, the Cavalry and the Mounted Infantry watered at Suakim, and joined the force at Baker's zeriba (mentioned above), about 7 am. Their strength was 41 Officers, 696 Non-Commissioned Officers and men. On arrival, the Mounted Infantry were at once sent to the front.

About 10 am it was reported that the enemy was in force some six miles distant. Accordingly, orders were given for the expedition to advance as soon as the men had had their dinners; it began to move off about 1 pm. The afternoon was hot, and

* See RMHS Newsletter Volume II Number 2 pps 17 - 19.

frequent halts were necessary. About 5 pm the Cavalry scouts came in, reporting that the enemy was advancing to attack in force. General Graham at once formed up the troops in a defensive position on a favourable piece of ground having a clear space in front, and as there was now barely an hour of daylight left, directed the engineers and pioneers of Battalions to form a zeriba round the camp, by cutting down the prickly mimosa bushes, which grew plentifully about. About half-past 6 pm a convoy arrived safely, carrying two days supply of water for men, with rations and reserve ammunition.

Before this the enemy had fired a few shots, but disappeared on a few rounds being fired from the 9-pr and Gardner guns.

About a quarter to 1 am there was an alarm, and the enemy opened a distant dropping fire, which continued throughout the night, causing but few casualties, but disturbing the men's rest. The casualties included one man of the 65th, killed; one Officer and four men wounded, besides two camel-drivers, and some horses struck; Major Colwell's horse was shot at this time.

About 7 am on the 13th, the Cavalry arrived, and at 7.30 the Mounted Infantry were sent out to feel the enemy. Information was received from a native spy that the bulk of Osman Digna's force would be in a deep khor or watercourse, the sides of which would serve as an intrenchment. The advance was made by two Brigades in direct echelon of Brigade squares from the left; the troops carrying 100 rounds of ammunition per man, all transport animals being left behind, together with two companies of the 75th, to defend the zeriba. The 2nd Brigade under Major-General Davis, led and was in the following formation; on the left flank four companies of the 42nd, in open column of companies; on the front face, three companies of the same Regiment, and at an interval of thirty paces, three companies of the 65th; on the right flank three companies of the 65th, the Royal Marines forming the rear face of the square. Inside the square were the guns of the Naval Brigade, and the 9-pr Mule Battery.

The following is the account of the attack on the 2nd Brigade, as given in General Graham's despatch:

"The 2nd Brigade began to advance from the place of formation about half-past eight am, and owing to some delay in getting the 1st Brigade forward, were somewhat further in advance than I had intended when they first came in contact with the enemy. This occurred about nine am when a large number suddenly appeared from the edge of a ravine, in the immediate front of the Brigade. These were soon cleared off; the Royal Highlanders (42nd), distinguished themselves by the gallant manner in which they cheered and charged up to the edge of the ravine; but at this moment a more formidable attack came from another direction, and a large body of natives, coming in one continuous stream, charged with reckless determination, utterly regardless of all loss, on the right hand corner of the square, formed by the 1st York and Lancaster (65th). The Brigade fell back into disorder, and the enemy captured the guns of the Naval Brigade, which, however, were locked by Officers and men who stood by them to the last.

"When first coming into action, the 9-pr Battery of four guns, under Major Holley RA, had been ordered outside the square on the right flank, and when the disordered retirement took place in the 2nd Brigade, this Battery was for a time unprotected by Infantry, and exposed to the assault of the enemy, now coming on in crowds. Yet Officers and men stood firmly to their guns, raking the advancing enemy with case, which told with deadly effect.

"The 1st Brigade were attacked about the same time, but stood firm, and the Cavalry moved up to protect the flank of the 2nd Brigade, which was soon rallied, and advanced to retake the guns of the Naval Brigade. The zeriba was also threatened, but the little garrison stood to its arms, and drove the enemy back. After this there was no more serious fighting, and the enemy retreated sullenly, making an occasional stand, towards the camp and village of Tamaai, which was occupied by the 1st Brigade about 11.40 am, when I despatched a telegram to Admiral Hewett, announcing the victory.

"The 2nd Brigade held the heights above the springs where the Cavalry watered. Ambulances and mule cacolets were sent for to bring away the dead and wounded, all being brought into the zeriba occupied the previous night, where tents and all necessary medical requirements had already been brought up. The Cavalry returned again to Baker's zeriba. The night was undisturbed by any fire from the enemy, but voices were heard shouting and wailing from the battle-field.

"There was but a temporary check in one portion of the force, during the action of Tamaai, and for that many reasons may be given. At the moment of receiving the attack, the front face of the square of the 2nd Brigade was slightly disordered, owing to the gallant rush of the Royal Highlanders, in charging the enemy at the top of the ravine. For this disorder I am to some extent personally responsible, as the charge took place under my eyes, and with my approval. My own observations of the attack were made from the right front angle, formed by the two half-battalions of the 1st York and Lancaster, where I posted myself as soon as I saw the enemy's attack, and it was here the main rush came. It is the habit of these Arabs to attack the angles of squares, as they know that least fire can be brought to bear on them from these points. As the 9-pr Battery was on the right, the sailor's guns were on the left, but I at once sent for them to meet this attack from the right. The Arabs, however, gave no time for further arrangements, but throwing themselves with desperate determination upon the angle of the square, broke it, carrying all before them. There were many attempted rallies among the York and Lancaster, and at one time I was almost surrounded by the enemy, one of whom got over my horses' quarter. In the rear of the square were the Royal Marines, than whom there can be no finer troops, and on whom I had counted as a reserve in the last emergency. Such, however, was the sudden nature of the disorder, and the impetuosity of the rush, that the Royal Marines were for a few minutes swept back, and mixed up in the general confusion. Yet, I submit, there was no panic among the men; they had been surprised, attacked suddenly, and driven back by a fanatical and determined enemy, who came on utterly regardless of loss, and who were as I have since learned, led by their bravest chiefs. As soon as the men had had time to think, they rallied and reformed. This check affected only the 2nd Brigade. The remainder of the force, the Cavalry, the Royal Artillery, and the 1st Brigade were firm and perfectly in hand, repulsing all attacks, and co-operating to assist the 2nd Brigade in driving back the enemy, who suffered tremendously for his temporary success, and never charged home again that day."

The foregoing despatch perhaps scarcely does justice to the events of the day. To deal with the matter more in detail: On leaving the scene of the bivouac, the two Brigades were separated by about 1,000 yards. The first Brigade, under General Buller, marched on the rear side of the other, at a distance varying from 600 to 900 yards, in an oblique line. The rear Battalions and the half-Battalions on either flank of either Brigade, marched at wheeling distances, so that on the word to form outwards being given, two complete squares could be formed. The two Brigades were thus placed so as to form two independent oblongs, the front face or line of each Brigade being about 200 yards in length, the sides about 100 yards. The main body of the Cavalry were echeloned on the left rear of the 2nd Brigade. The morning was bright and clear, but there was no wind to carry off the smoke.

When the leading 2nd Brigade square got within 200 yards of the ravine, a series of broken and irregular rushes was made by the Soudanese on the front and right, but none of them reached within 20 yards of the British line.

Then, apparently, an order was given to charge, and the front rank of the square charged up to within thirty yards from the edge of the ravine; the enemy were now swarming on the ridges on the opposite side of the ravine, and the Naval machine guns, which had been run out a few yards, in front of the right corner of the square, were turned upon them. Many of the enemy were observed running down the slopes, and disappearing among the rocks in the little valley intervening. Under cover of the smoke hundreds of the Soudanese crept up the near side of the ravine, and threw themselves upon the right front and right flank of the square. The 65th, unable to resist the onslaught, were forced back upon the Marines in the rear, and the right wing of the 42nd became exposed, and the enemy, rushing in were among the Highlanders on their flank and rear, cutting and spearing in every direction.

The men were so huddled together, that many of them were unable to use their rifles or bayonets. The Marines in rear of the Brigade were wheeled up to support the 65th, and close the gaps in the formation, but it was too late, and they too were thrown back, and borne away on the line of retreat. According to "The Egyptian Campaigns", by Charles Royle, as the Marines were being swept away, Major Colwell RMLI, shouted in stentorian tones "Men of the Portsmouth Division, rally", which they did, 150 of them closing together in a compact little body, forming a little square, The Highlanders and 65th also formed one or two such groups, and materially assisted in bringing about the general rally, which soon followed.

In spite of every effort, however, it appears that the whole force fell back about 800 yards. The Naval Brigade which had been sent to the front with their machine guns, during the rush lost three of their Officers, and many of their men, and the guns had to be abandoned.

It is due to the soldiers of the 2nd Brigade to say that although driven back, there was no such thing as a stampede: they retreated backwards, face to the foe, loading and firing all the time they were not engaged in meeting the attack with thrusts of the bayonet. The rally took place in about twenty minutes. This was greatly assisted by the cross fire of the 1st Brigade, from its position at some 400 or 500 yards from the ravine, and by the fire from the Cavalry, who were dismounted for the purpose, and fired volleys into the enemy's right flank. Covered by this fire, the Marines on the right, the 65th in the centre, and the 42nd, with the Naval Brigade in their rear on the left. After a quarter of an hour's halt, and a fresh supply of ammunition being served out to each man, the 2nd Brigade once more moved forward to the attack. The first Brigade had now moved 200 yards closer to the ravine, and halted, pouring a raking fire into the enemy, and preventing any attempt to again rush the flank of the 2nd Brigade. In ten minutes, the lost ground had been regained, and the guns recaptured.

It was now the turn of the 1st Brigade, which, still in square formation, was sent to take a second intervening ridge, some 800 yards off. The Soudanese, disheartened, kept up a feeble fire, retreating as the Brigade advanced, and the second ridge was carried without difficulty. From the top of this ridge, Tamaai could be seen in the valley below, with the tents and huts of Osman Digna's camp. By 11.40 am these were in possession of the British forces.

The British losses were five Officers and 86 Non-Commissioned Officers and men killed, eight Officers and 100 Non-Commissioned Officers and men wounded; missing, nineteen men.

Of the above, it is said that three Officers and eleven men were killed at the taking of the Naval guns, and that the loss of the 2nd Brigade, at the time of the square being broken, was 70 in killed alone.

The number of the enemy was reported by General Graham as being from 10,000 to 12,000, and the loss as over 2,000 in killed alone.

The loss of the Royal Marine Battalion amounted to three killed and fifteen wounded, including Surgeon Cross, RN, viz:

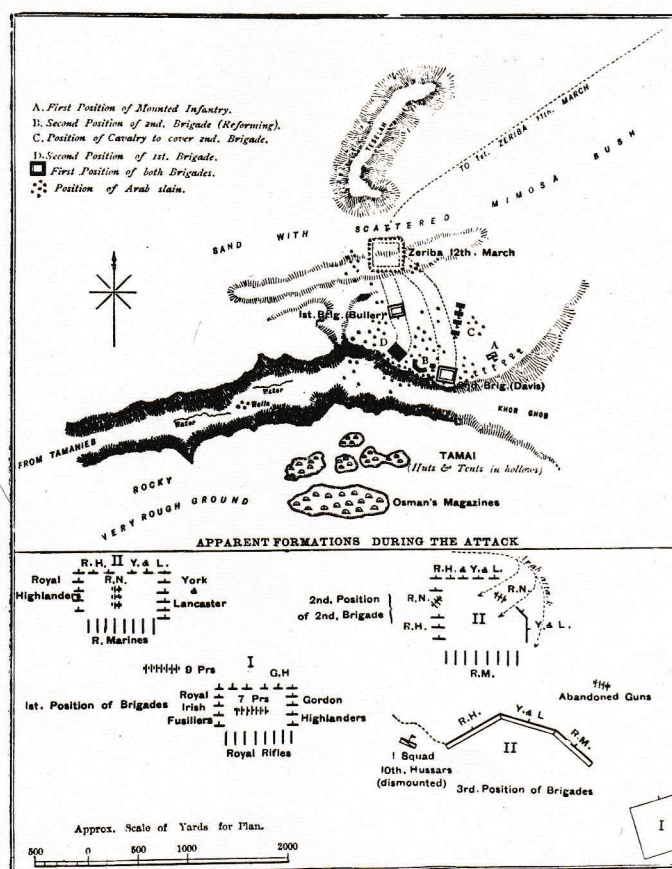
Killed	RMA	8th Co	Gnr Thomas Tastin
	RMLI	24th Co	Pte William Lock
	"	42nd Co	Pte Arthur Giles
Wounded	RMA	10th Co	Gnr Frederick Eveleigh
	"	8th Co	Gnr James W Davis
	RMLI	2nd Co	Sergt William Trowbridge
	"	21st Co	Pte Daniel Beautyman
	"	25th Co	Pte William F Harris
	"	31st Co	Pte George Southern

Wounded	RMLI	28th Co	Pte Robert Boundary
	"	19th Co	Pte William Chalkley
	"	6th Co	Pte John Shaw
	"	39th Co	Pte William Charles Sugg
	"	47th Co	Pte Edward Horsewell
	"	38th Co	Pte Richard M'Donough
	"	14th Co	Pte John Wilkie

Also wounded during previous night in the zeriba, by the enemy's dropping fire,
3rd Co Pte William Smith; 46th Co Pte David Thomas.

On the 17th March Captain Baldwin RMLI, and his detachment rejoined HMS EURYALUS, and the men belonging to HMS BRITON rejoined their ship also. Lieutenant Aston RMA, was now appointed Acting Adjutant to the Battalion.

The Royal Marine Battalion embarked on board the UTOPIA on the 14 April, 371 strong, and rejoined their ships in the Mediterranean; the men belonging to the paid off ships from the China and East Indian Stations, having left when the expeditionary force was broken up (29 March 1884).



Editor's Notes

1. The following extracts from Major General Sir George Aston's book 'Memories of a Marine', illustrate the difficulties of the Marines at the rear of the square.

'The rear face of a square on the move is the least enviable position. It is no joke plodding in heavy marching order through clouds of dust in tight fitting blue clothing attracting the full heat of the sun, especially when your head covering is unsuitable and uncomfortable. It adds to your discomfort when progress is constantly obstructed by the tail ends of mules, constantly straggling from the mass inside the square, carrying loads of ammunition, water (very little of that) and medical stores.'

....'After a few steady volleys we heard a terrific burst of rifle and machine-gun fire in front. Through the dust and heat haze and screen of mules and transport we saw a few fuzzy heads, and the glint of spear-points occasionally appeared over the low scrub. Then a steady stream of transport animals came at us. Then men of all Units mixed up in little mobs plodding steadily to the rear, without panic, but with all organisation and control lost. They came upon us so suddenly that there was no chance to alter our formation, which left no gaps to let the procession through. We were in line in two ranks, and many of our men were soon mixed up with the others in retreat. In some parts of the line one of our few officers or an NCO, formed what was then called a "rallying square" of a few men. These prepared "for cavalry", which meant forming in clusters with rear ranks standing and front ranks on the knee, each little human buttress bristling with bayonets.'

....'After all organisation was lost I remember the maddening feeling of being unable to regain control. The men seemed dazed and incapable of grasping any idea but that of walking to the rear. It seemed to be impossible to stop the movement. Then I learned the value of esprit de corps, and the old discipline and sense of obedience instilled by barrack-square drill. The Major (later General G H T Colwell CB) whose horse had been shot in the zeriba during the night was the fortunate possessor of a voice like a bull. He roared out an appeal to the esprit de corps of the Portsmouth men of the Royal Marines to rally round him. At last some men stopped, and seeing them do so, others followed the example.'

2. After the square reformed a Naval Lieutenant and a party of bluejackets attempted to recover a lost machine-gun, but were attacked by a large body of spearmen and swordsmen. Although the unbroken square was in the line of fire Aston's company opened fire to save their shipmates, which nearly ended in tragedy.

'A very angry man turned up soon afterwards from the other square with a bullet hole through one of his horses ears. He selected me (Aston) as the object of his wrath, and as there was nothing on him to show that he was an officer, I took him for a war correspondent and told him to go to hell. One of our Majors came up, and to my dismay called him "Sir". The Chief of Staff (Colonel Clery) arrived and did the same. The justly annoyed man was Redvers Buller commander of the other Brigade'. Twenty years afterwards a fellow student at staff college dragged up the question 'who shot Buller's horse?' during a discussion on savage warfare, from which I gather that the story had spread throughout the army.'

3. The Royal Marine Battalion were received as heroes when they rejoined the Mediterranean Fleet at Malta. The Captains of the Fleet manned a galley and pulled Major Colwell (the Senior Officer) across Grand Harbour to the flagship.

