



ROYAL MARINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY



1678



1755



1890

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ROYAL MARINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR'S NOTES

In my enthusiasm for publishing 'my' first Newsletter I regret that for the last issue I seized the wrong part of Colonel Drury's autobiography. Consequently I published Part III before Part II, and apologise to members for this error. This has been rectified in this number.

I am still striving to cater for all interests by producing a balanced Newsletter but recently there has been a shortage of articles on badges. I know that we have a number of badge collectors in the Society, so how about someone coming forward with a series of articles on the subject? The Historical Photograph Library has a good collection of badges photographs, which can always be used to illustrate an article.

I hope everyone is as enthusiastic as I am over the cover illustration for Volume IV, which Charles Stadden has kindly drawn for us.

This issue sees the first of a series of articles on RM Directors of Music which I promised. We are most grateful to Mr R. G. Harris and the Editor of the Bulletin of the Military Historical Society, for permission to republish a slightly shortened version of the article which appeared in the May 1972 edition of the Bulletin.

The first questions have come in, for which I am grateful to Wilf Davey, and I hope that readers will give some thought to these so that I can publish the first answers next time along with some more questions.

The response from members for a reprint of Volume I in the new format has been very good and I intend to put this in motion now that this Newsletter is on its way, in the hope that it can be distributed before the end of the year.

Members may be interested to know that sales of General Moulton's book have been excellent. Leo Cooper, who has already published nearly fifty volumes in the Famous Regiments series, believes 'The Royal Marines' to be one of the best sellers. Those of you, who sent off the leaflet from the last Newsletter for a copy at the special price, may well have had to wait because of the need to reprint much earlier than expected.

As you will realise these notes have been prepared since the Council Notes were written. I feel it is therefore up to me to regretfully inform members that our hard working and efficient Honorary Secretary, Tony Brend, has been forced to resign owing to his sudden move to the United States. In one capacity or another he has been a member of the Council since the formation of the Society and his temporary absence from the country is going to be keenly felt. Graham Hennessy has kindly volunteered to fill the gap by returning to the Secretarial chair until such time as a new Secretary can be found. I know your Council would be pleased to hear from any member who feels in a position to take over the reins.

(A. J. D.)

THE MILLERS IN MILITARY MUSIC

BY

R. G. HARRIS

Looking back through the records of British Military Music a host of names of prominent and cultured musicians emerge; it would however be a little more difficult to find a family where successive generations of gifted military musicians have reached the eminence of the Millers. The full story is deserving of complete and carefully researched documentation and such work is believed to be in hand. Within the limited space available a precis may be permitted, accompanied by some interesting photographs which the present writer was fortunate enough to recently acquire. Unfortunately the pictorial record is incomplete without a photograph of the first Bandmaster Miller of the 63rd Foot, presumably between the 1850's and 1870's, most of which period the Regiment was overseas. (Note 1.) Bandmaster Miller was the second of four generations, all soldiers, whose family record of service spanned a period from about the commencement of the 19th century until 1942, service under six British Sovereigns. Little else seems to be known about the first Bandmaster Miller other than the fact that his father was killed in action at Quatre Bras on 16th June 1815, and that his own son, George J. Miller, was born on the 18th November 1853.

That so little seems to be available is perhaps not surprising as the position of Bandmaster during the years already mentioned was a peculiar one. Before the Crimean war the majority were either foreigners or civilians and whilst very many were excellent musicians, were not subject to the same degree of military discipline and were in consequence instrumental in creating all sorts of problems, one of which being the alacrity with which they would resign their appointments if their regiments should be ordered overseas. The whole position was gradually placed on a regular footing through the foresight of the Duke of Cambridge, who was responsible for the creation of a school of training for Bandmasters at Kneller Hall, Twickenham, on the lines of the Ecole Militaire Musicale in Paris.

It obviously took many years for the benefits of the training college to become generally effective but it was to bring enormous rewards to score of promising young men with musical talent, amongst them George J. Miller Jnr. (Note 2).

George Miller's first appointment was to the Band of the 2nd Bn. 16th Foot in 1874, with which Regiment he spent six years before his next important step, to take over the Band of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in 1880. Success in this position, at the very hub of British military life and training, would naturally ensure the future prospects for the right man, which Miller proved to be. The status of British Army Bandmasters took a further forward step in 1881 when all who had passed the Kneller Hall examination in Bandmastership were made Warrant Officers with effect from 1st July 1881. (In fact it then became impossible to hold the position of Bandmaster without the Kneller Hall examination qualification.)

It had long been recognised that the 'plum' appointment for any Bandmaster would be to one of the principal bands i.e. those of the Household Cavalry,

Foot Guards, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers or Royal Marines. When therefore a vacancy occurred for master of the Royal Marine Light Infantry Band, Portsmouth Division, applications for the position poured in, numbering over 100, amongst them one from Bandmaster G. J. Miller, his name was placed on the short list and eventually he became the successful candidate, the appointment dating from 18th November 1884.

After fourteen years with the RMLI Miller was to participate in an award which was to place him amongst the leading Bandmasters of his time. A letter dated 13th October 1898, from Sir Arthur Bigge, Queen Victoria's private secretary to the War Office, revealed Her Majesty's interest in the general status of British Army Bandmasters and included the wish that three be granted commissions.

"Her Majesty would wish now to give three Commissions, viz (a) Mr C. Godfrey, Blues, (b) Mr Zavertal, Royal Artillery and (c) Mr Miller, Portsmouth Division RMLI, Her Majesty proposes these names for the following reasons: (c), although this will be dealt with by the Admiralty it is included in the general proposal. The Queen can perhaps speak with more personal knowledge of this band than any other. It plays both as military and orchestral frequently during HM's residence at Osborne and excels under Mr Miller of whose musical acquirements the best proof has been given by his passing the examination for a Bachelor of Music of the University of Oxford." (Note 3)

An Hon Commission for a Bandmaster had only been granted on a single previous occasion, in 1887 to the celebrated Dan Godfrey of the Grenadiers. Historians were later to agree that the intent of Queen Victoria's original letter of October 1898 was that the award of the three commissions were 'compliments to the regiments, not to the Bandmasters'. (Note 4).

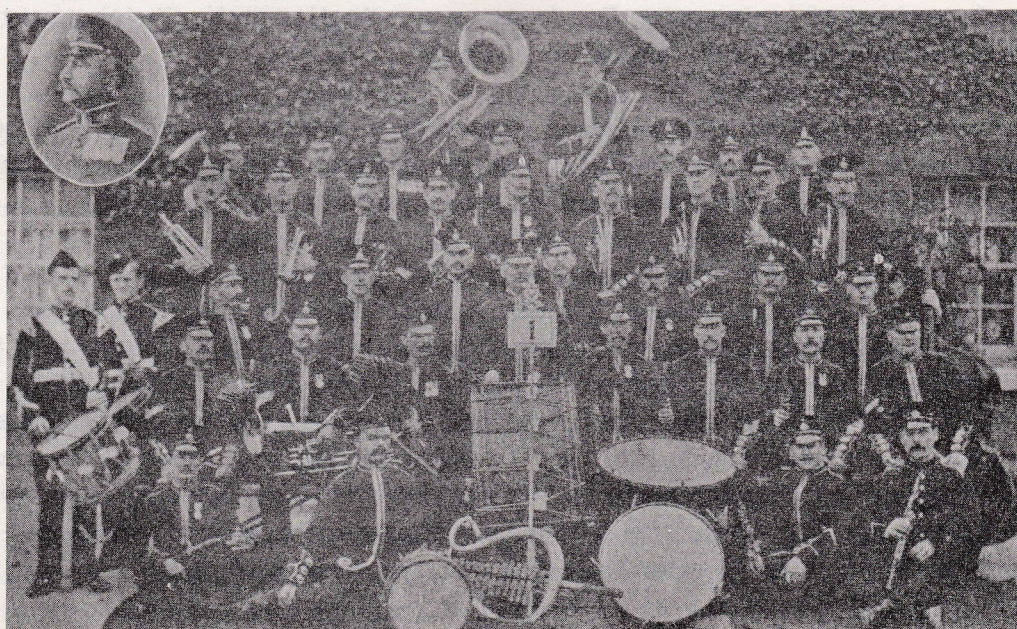


Fig 1.

Miller's commission as Hon 2nd Lieutenant was dated 28th December 1898, and to 2nd Lieutenant on 15th November 1899. Fig 1 shows the RMLI Band of about 1904 in the handsome scarlet uniform edged with gold lace, blue trousers with scarlet stripe, blue cap with scarlet band, in this instance a winter photograph showing the caps without white covers.



Fig 2 probably taken during the same year, shows 2nd Lieutenant Miller wearing officer's uniform, scarlet tunic, gold lace edging with blue collar and gold embroidered collar badges with metal Globe centres, the cap badge of similar design but with the separate Light Infantry stringed horn badge above, white summer cap cover. His decorations include the MVO (5th class) (19th March 1901), Queen Victoria's Jubilee Medal 1887, with clasp for Diamond Jubilee of 1897, King Edward's Coronation Medal and the Order of a Portuguese Chevalier of Our Lady of Conception.

Fig 2.

The Portsmouth Division RMLI being at Forton Barracks, Gosport, Miller found it convenient to live nearby at Bridgemary House, Fareham, Hampshire. Fig 3 is a photograph taken near there on the occasion of the wedding of his daughter, Miss Gertrude D. Miller at Saint Thomas's Church, Elson, on 26th May 1909. For



Fig 3.

this ceremony 2nd Lt Miller wears full dress uniform including the white helmet introduced for universal wear in 1905 and in fact the new style uniform of 1902. Lining the entry to the church are Boy Buglers of the RMLI under training, and it will be seen that they all wear the Broderick cap, a headdress used by the Royal Marines long after it was discarded by the Army, until the 1920's in fact. Miller is seen acknowledging the Bugle-Major's salute with his left hand (an interesting point - was saluting to left or right still in force at this late date or was it simply because, in this instance there was no alternative?) There is also a companion photograph of the bride and groom, Lieutenant Spencer-Clarke, RGA Portsmouth, leaving church, the groom in full dress, another guard of honour comprised of Buglers in their full dress tunics with wings and drummers' lace, Broderick caps.

On the 19th May, 1914, George Miller had completed the necessary fifteen years with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and was promoted to Hon Major. During the war in November 1916, the band of the Portsmouth Division was called upon for a period of duty with the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division in France. This band, 40 strong, left Forton Barracks at 7.30 in the morning, strangely enough led by their own pipe band to the strains of 'Joan's Placket', (the bagpipes incidentally were a private enterprise of the Corps of Drums). In France innumerable band performances were given providing immense pleasure to soldiers and civil population alike, the latter were lavish with their praise in the local newspaper under the headline, 'Musique de la Marine Anglais'. Unfortunately their performances, under active service conditions, were the last military duties that Director of Music Major Miller was to perform, he was taken ill during the tour and had to return home and eventually retired on medical grounds on the 3rd March 1917.

At the time that Major George Miller was forced to lay down his baton after 32 years of band service, his son George was well advanced with his own service band musical career. George John Miller was born on the 21st January 1877 and at the age of eight was a chorister at the Chapel Royal, Windsor Castle, soon becoming boy soloist and singing at Royal marriages and other State functions, on one occasion was chosen to sing a duet with Madame Albani. In 1893 he was sent to Germany and entered the Konigliche Kapelmeister Aspirants-Schule where he remained until 1896. In that year he enlisted in the 60th Rifles with all the qualifications required to pass the educational and musical examinations necessary to eventually enter the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, which he left on 2nd November 1898. (Note 5.) His first band was that of the 1st Bn Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, then stationed in India, his Warrant Officer appointment dated 22nd November 1898. Miller served in India from January 1899 until December 1900 when he accompanied the battalion to Ceylon, sailing for South Africa in December 1902 but was eventually recalled to England in June 1903 to organise the newly sanctioned Royal Garrison Artillery Band at Portsmouth. The opportunity to be able to start from scratch was one of immense appeal for Miller, whose new band, with a strength of 52 musicians, was soon able to perform both for military occasions and as an orchestra, and in addition would often accompany a local operatic society which Mr Miller had formed. Opera had always been one of his passionate interests; he married a famed opera singer of the time, Madame Gleeson White.



Fig 4.

Fig 4 shows the smart young Bandmaster in the blue Artillery Band uniform, the tunic with scarlet collar and cuffs, lavishly ornamented with gold lace and with gold laced belts and sword slings.

In 1906 Miller applied for the Royal Artillery Band on the retirement of the renowned Cavaliere Zanertal, but was unsuccessful, the appointment going to Mr E.C. Stretton from the Royal Naval School of Music, Eastney. In 1908, however, he was selected for appointment to the 1st Life Guards Band and left his family and large circle of friends and associates in Portsmouth for the Household Cavalry at Hyde Park Barracks. There are many photographs of George Miller LRAM during his fourteen years with the 'Tins',

they differ widely although the majority show the finery of a Household Cavalry Band on State occasions whilst others show the sombre khaki of the working day or war years.



Fig 5.

Fig 5 was taken about the time he was commissioned in March 1919, and shows rather a mixture of dress, full dress as such not yet back in wear after over four years of khaki. It must be concluded that 2nd Lt Miller assembled such kit as was available, his motive was probably elation resulting from promotion. As it turned out, Miller was to have poor return for the large outlay to his tailor when he later purchased his officers' uniform. His heavy cavalryman's full dress was placed on one side in October 1921 for that of the Grenadier Guards.

Succeeding a Director of Music such as Dr Albert Williams, formerly Bandsman 61st Regiment and Bandmaster 10th Hussars and Royal Marine Artillery who retired from the Army after 44 years total service, to live in Southsea, was indeed a challenge, but one confidently accepted by Mr Miller.

Thus we come to the final chapter of George Miller's career, a long period of 21 years with the Band of the Grenadier Guards during which time he maintained its fine reputation as one of the best in the world. For his services he was created a Member of the Royal Victorian Order and Member of the Order of the British Empire, in February 1940 received his final promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel, Director of Music. By 1939 of course the country was at war and Major Miller was then aged 62. Normal duties of a peace-time Director of Music of a Guards Band were strenuous enough but with the added war time difficulties and conditions Lt Col George John Miller eventually retired in 1942 aged 65 with a proud record of 46 years distinguished service to music and the Army.

- NOTES
1. The writer is anxious to trace a photograph of the Band of the 63rd Regiment or an individual photograph of Bandmaster Miller.
 2. "Foreign Army Bandmasters. Their rise and fall" by Dr H. G. Farmer. Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research Vol XXVII.
 3. Correspondence from letters of Queen Victoria. 3rd series Vol III. Reproduced in 'A Hundred Years of Military Music' by Lt Col P. L. Binns 1959.
 4. History of the Royal Artillery Band, 1762-1953. Dr H. G. Farmer, 1954.
 5. Famous Bands of the British Empire. A. E. Zealley and J. Order Hume, 1926.

"TO SEE OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US"

by

TONY PERRETT

Sinclair H. Hitchings in an introduction to 'Corporal John Ledyards Journal of Captain Cook's Last Voyage' printed by Oregon State University Press (USA), a copy of which is held by the Corps Historian, contains the following extract:

'The rank and file of the Marines aboard the 'RESOLUTION' were an unruly lot. Mathew Paul, a seaman aboard this ship, kept a journal (now held in the Public Records Office, London, Ref ADM 51/4560) between July 1776 and Aug 1778 in which he noted the punishment of no fewer than eleven of the fifteen Marine Privates for various misdemeanors. For example:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rank and Name</u>	<u>No of Lashes</u>	<u>Offence</u>
14 Nov 1776	Pte John Perkins	12	Neglect of duty
1 Dec 1776	Pte Thomas Harford	6	Selling his clothes
23 Dec 1776	Pte John Jackson	6	Quarrelling & fighting
10 Jan 1777	Pte John Allen	6	Drunkenness & neglect of duty

During the year when RESOLUTION and DISCOVERY were first in the Friendly and later Society Islands, and the detachments of marines were frequently ashore, the RESOLUTION's marine privates got themselves into a remarkable variety of trouble.

Paul's journal goes on to record

5 May 1777	Pte Thomas Girley	12	Neglect of duty
14 Jly 1777	Pte Thomas Harford	12	Refusing to stand duty
17 Jly 1777	" " "	6	Neglect of duty
17 Jly 1777	Pte William Scruse	6	" " "
17 Jly 1777	Pte John McDonald	6	" " "
12 Sep 1777	Pte John Allen	12	Theft
30 Oct 1777	Pte Thomas Morris	12	Sleeping at his post
30 Oct 1777	Pte John Harrison	12	Neglect of duty
31 Oct 1777	Pte Thomas Morris	12	Allowing native prisoner to escape
1 Nov 1777	" " "	12	" " "
2 Nov 1777	Pte Isaac Carley	12	Sleeping at his post
17 Nov 1777	Pte John Harrison	12	Desertion
25 Nov 1777	Pte Theophilus Hinks	12	Sleeping at his post

What family doesn't have its little 'Ups and Downs'! ?

Now I am sure that there are many readers who cherish the Corps and its honourable past glories that would wish 'skeletons such as these to be swept into cupboards', but the fact remains that this book has been published and is on the open market in America at least.

Whilst the facts are unquestionably true, it should be pointed out that if Corporal Ledyard RM in his journal which followed had detailed similar misdemeanors of the sailors aboard, instead of filling his pages with descriptive chapters on the voyage, places and people he met, he could have run to two volumes!

One should not assume from this that Captain Cook ran an ill-disciplined ship, far from it in fact, although he was not over indulgent with the lash (seldom going above twelve strokes) and took great care of the mens' health, he was in fact a very strict man.

I think it would be true to say that the men in those days had less self-discipline and therefore succumbed to human frailties more readily when left a lot to their own devices, as they undoubtedly were on that expedition, as compared to a tightly knit man-of-war. Another factor to consider was that there was a war on as you well know with America, and Cook had to accept either very young or very old crew members, (mostly the former) and obviously did not get the pick of the recruits for such an undertaking.

Nevertheless, two members come in for some praise in the Editor's Preface apart from Ledyard himself who is attributed almost God-like status similar to the great Captain Cook.

The OCRM of both ships, 2nd Lieutenant Molesworth Phillips, is described as 'a handsome, gallant, talented hero, who at the end of the voyage met and married Susan Burney, sister of fellow officer James Burney (1st Lieut RN). He had a tolerable knowledge of music. A skilled 'gentleman mechanic', he presented models of vessels, utensils and arms which he had created to a London museum. Retired as a Colonel, he enjoyed the company of Charles Lamb, the Burney family and other notables of the era. He was past 75, the only surviving officer of the voyage, at the time of his death in 1832'.

Of Sergeant Samuel Gibson he writes that he served as a private with Cook on the first voyage to the Pacific, and as a corporal on the second. In July 1769 he tried to desert in Tahiti (when he married a local beauty) and received two dozen lashes for his pains. Although Cook called him a 'wild young man' and he seemed to have a propensity for alcohol, his knowledge of Polynesian language and customs made him useful as an interpreter on all three voyages. Midshipman Trevenen says he was a great favourite of Cook, having saved his life once in one of the skirmishes with the Indians at New Zealand.

Also according to Trevenen it was Pte John Perkins, one of our defaulters listed, who shot the man who stabbed Cook to death at Hawaii on 14th February 1779 and another, Theophilus Hinks died defending the Captain.

Sergeant Gibson, he further claims in his journal, was married at Stromness sometime between the time of the ship's arrival there on 22nd August and his death.

on 22nd September 1780. But of more interest the Midshipman also relates an incident in which Gibson's life was saved in Hawaii by a new device kept at hand for emergencies - a pole with shot for weight on one end, corks near the middle and a bell on the other end. Trevenen says that Sgt Gibson 'had fallen overboard intoxicated in the night and was with difficulty saved from drowning by a machine called a 'life buoy' cut away as soon as he fell off the deck, and after remaining an hour in the sea, which here abounded with sharks, he was picked up by a boat directed to him by the ringing of a bell on top of the machine'. This is one of the earliest, if not the first, recorded use of the term 'life-buoy'.

QUESTIONS

1. Rations

What were the daily rations issued gratuitously to Rank and File inliers around the latter part of the nineteenth century and what were the general arrangements for messing at that time?

(W.E. Davey)

2. Married "On the strength"

What were the implications of this phrase? And what happened to those unfortunates who were married but not on the strength?

(W.E. Davey)

3. Flogging triangle?

In my early days in the Corps, even as recently as the last war I believe, there still existed in the Armourer's Shop at Eastney a large triangular frame of heavy timber - taller than a man, and needing about three men to shift it. It has now disappeared, and enquiries by a serving member of the Society have not traced it. Tradition had it that this was a "flogging triangle", to which at one time men were strapped to receive corporal punishment before the assembled parade. Can anyone say if this contraption still exists at the back of some storeroom? Can anyone throw any light on the practice of flogging?

(W.E. Davey)

4. Backboards

One occasionally still hears a reference to "backboards", used in "inducing" recruits to stand erect years ago. Can any member provide any information on this practice?

(W.E. Davey)

THE NOTE BOOK OF
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN MILLER

by
ALASTAIR DONALD

In 1970 a lady in Bradford-on-Avon kindly presented a manuscript notebook (5" x 8") to the Corps Museum. Inside the front cover is a book plate with the name "John Miller" and also his signature. Attached to the flyleaf is a note, dated June 1934 and signed E. M. Field, which states:

"I believe all these notes and drawings in this book which was given me by my father Major General Henry Miller were done by my great grandfather Major General John Miller (Marines) who was a son of John Miller gent of GRAVELLINGWELL Nr. Chichester 1st Cousin of the 4th Baronet Sir John Miller of Froyle Park, Hants. "

Presented at the same time as the notebook was this photograph of a portrait of John Miller.



John Miller was first commissioned into the Marines as a 2nd Lieutenant on 21st February 1776, during the war of the American Revolution, and was appointed to the 51st Company at Portsmouth. His promotion to 1st Lieutenant came two years later on 15th April when he was posted to the 90th Company. At the end of the American War the Marine Corps was reduced from 25,000 to 4,500, but Miller was one of those lucky enough to be retained and, although remaining in Portsmouth Division, formed No. 2 Company on 1st August 1783. He was appointed Adjutant of the Division a month later, and it is to this period that the orders in his notebook relate.

By 1792 he was the senior 1st Lieutenant in the Corps and on 1st January 1793 was promoted Captain Lieutenant. According to a 1793 manuscript list of officers he is noted as serving with No 7 Company at Chatham, however, in the published list of 1st January 1794 he is shown as having been appointed to 87 Company, back at Portsmouth, with the rank of Captain. As he had resigned his appointment of Adjutant on 23rd April 1793, it may be assumed that he only served at Chatham for three months whilst awaiting a command. It should be noted that the Corps was now gaining in strength again for the French Revolutionary Wars, first to 15,000 and then to 30,000 (70 Companies in 1792, 136 in 1798 and 145 Companies in 1801).

In spite of the reduction in establishment on the Peace of Amiens in 1802, Captain Miller still retained his company and a year later, when William Davids died soon after achieving Field Rank, Miller was promoted Major in his place and given command of his company, the 107th at Portsmouth.

The Fourth Division at Woolwich was established in 1805 and Miller's promotion to Lieutenant Colonel coincided with his appointment to the new Division on 15th August that year. The Colonel Commandant, Second Colonel Commandant and two other Lieutenant Colonels were all appointed on the same date. However, he returned to Portsmouth a year later when he seems to have exchanged appointments with Nathaniel Moorsom. By 1815 Miller was the senior Lieutenant Colonel in the Corps and ranked as a full Colonel in the Army with a seniority of 4th June 1813.

He is shown as being on unattached pay in the 1820 list of RM officers and with an Army rank of Major General dated 12th August 1825.

The notebook contains a large miscellany of entries such as a recipe for "A Plumb (sic) Pudding", "Description of the poison tree in the Island of Java", "Critical observation on Louthenberg" and "Extracts from Perrey's Elements of Heraldry". But the part that is of particular interest to us are the 28 pages of orders. Many of these orders relate to discipline and dress. They will provide suitable "fillers" for the Newsletter from time to time.

Extract from the Notebook

31st January 1785. The following directions of the dress of the non commissioned officers and private men are to be observed till further orders.

Upon muster days, Sundays and at the review of necessities they are to appear in their best suit of uniform clothing on all common parades in their second suit of uniforms, on Saturdays they are to wear their jackets with the other parts of their sea dress and after the morning parade is dismissed on that day they are to be employed in cleaning their rooms, arms, clothes and accoutrements until the evening roll calling. At all times when the men wear the knapsacks the Battalion to wear their hair clubbed and all Guards are to mount in their best suit of uniform clothing.

26th May 1784. The Officers, or in their absence the Sergeants, of Companies are to see when they parade the men for exercise that their arms and accoutrements are in good order, likewise the Sergeants commanding Companies for squads are to examine each mans' arms and accoutrements before he goes through any part of the exercise and if he finds any defect he is to report them to the Quarter Master and the mans' arms gear, who are found to be defective must be repaired and paid for by himself and if any should break his arms at exercise he is to make it known before he goes to his Barracks and it will then be repaired by the public.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL NUGENT MACNAMARA, ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY

BY

SIDNEY WOOD

Lieut-Colonel Nugent Macnamara RMA was born in 1828, in Guernsey, Channel Islands, and was the son of Commander Timothy Macnamara RN.



He was promoted 2nd Lieut on 30th Dec, 1847 and to 1st Lieut on 25th April, 1849. Transferring to the Artillery Companies in 1851, he served in HMS PENELOPE on the West Coast of Africa, from 1852 to 1854 and in HMS ROYAL ALBERT from 1854 to 1856, being present at the seige and fall of Sebastopol and the bombardment and surrender of Kinburn.

Macnamara was senior officer RMA employed in the Sea of Azoff in June 1855, he landed at Ghirk, Taganrog and Marianpol to destroy Government stores of grain, forage etc and was mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette of 28th June 1855.

Lt. Col. N. MACNAMARA

The following extract is from a letter written by him dated 1st Nov 1877 to the Deputy Adjutant General RM " the importance of the Expedition which was signally successful, was marked by the "Azoff" clasp being added to the Crimean Medal and by an extensive Naval Promotion in which from the rank I then held I was unable to share. On obtaining my company in 1859 I submitted an application for Brevet rank but was unsuccessful so that my service together with those of the

Force I commanded remained unrecognised beyond the award of the 5th Class of the Medjidie which the Officers serving under my orders also received



Colonel Macnamara's Medals

(from left to right) Crimean War Medal (Sebastopol & Azoff); Order of the Medjidie (5th Class); Turkish Crimean Medal.

He was appointed Superintendent of Marine Cadets 1857-1858 and to the Artillery Division 13th Feb 1861, Staff Captain RMA Headquarters 1870 and Brevet Major 1872. He retired with the rank of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in 1876 and was awarded a Greenwich Hospital Pension on 31st Aug 1903. He died at his home, 22 Park Crescent, Brighton, on 3rd May 1917.

ERRATA

Vol III No 3

Page 1 (Contents) Line 12. Autobiography of a Sea Soldier.
delete "(Part II)" insert "(Part III)".

Page 17 Title Line
delete "PART II" insert "PART III".

Below the Sub title
delete "(Contd from Page 37 of Vol III No 1)".
insert "(Part II published in Vol IV No 1)".

Page 22 Final line
delete "(to be continued)" insert "(Concluded)".

(Part III of this article was erroneously numbered Part II
and published in Vol III No 3)

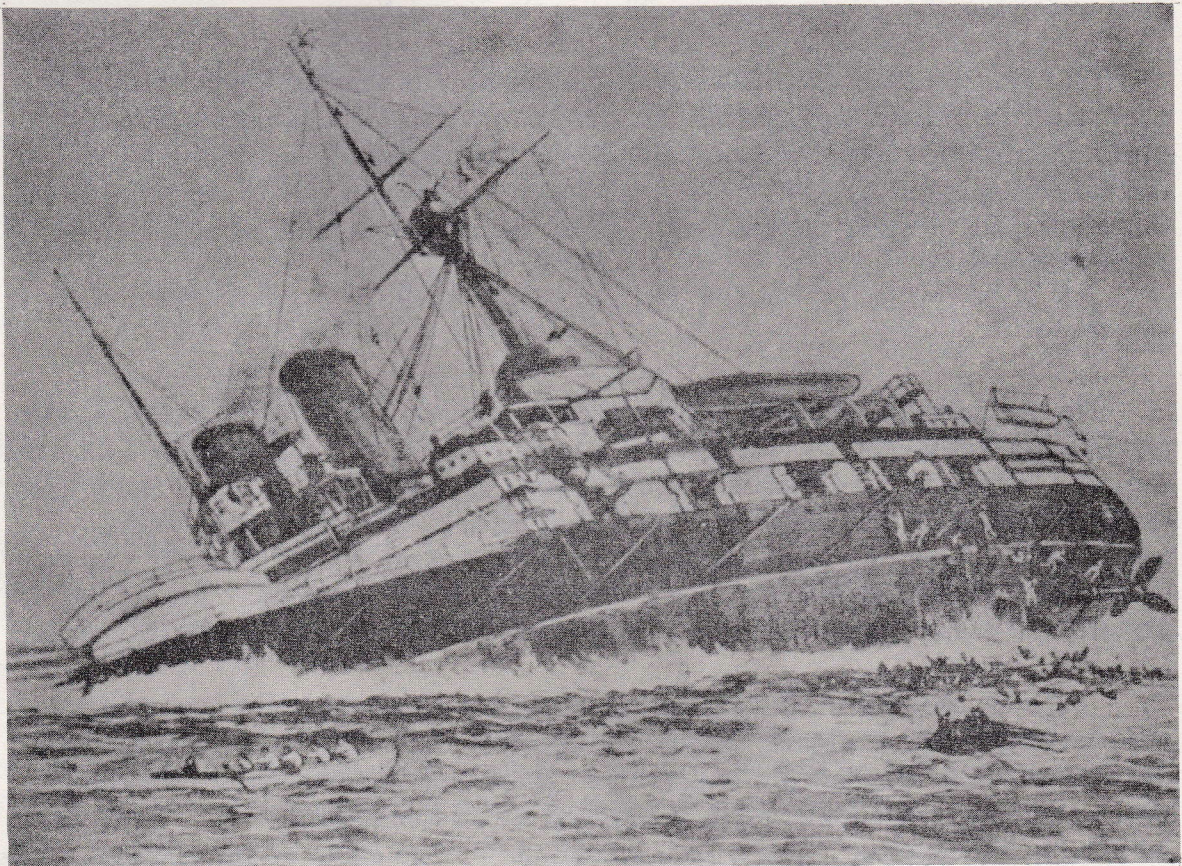
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A SEA SOLDIER - PART II

A POIGNANT MEMORY AND SOME OTHERS

(By Lieut-Col W. P. DRURY)

(Continued from page 37 of Vol III No 2)

Of a thousand scenes which have long since faded from my memory, one that I witnessed from the poop of the Edinburgh will remain indelibly stamped upon it to the end of my life. On a brilliant midsummer afternoon, in the year 1893, the fleet was steaming in two parallel lines towards the anchorage off Tripoli, which lay ahead of us in the purple shadow of Mount Lebanon. Heading the weather line was the flagship Victoria, the lee line being led by the Camperdown. The Edinburgh was next astern the latter ship. Suddenly a string of brightly-coloured bunting was run up to the flagship's masthead. It was the famous fatal signal. It was answered - after some hesitation - by the Camperdown, and the two long lines of ships began to turn inwards towards each other. Everyone knows what happened. The distance between the two lines had been miscalculated. The Camperdown's ram crashed into the fo'c'sle of the



HMS VICTORIA sinking after the collision with the CAMPERDOWN

Victoria, and in eight breathless minutes the magnificent flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet had turned keel uppermost and gone to the bottom with the greater number of her officers and crew. Out of a detachment of 103 Royal Marines alone, 70 were drowned.

Many a King's ship alas, met a similar fate during the war - more than one likewise on a fine summer's day. But the Victoria disaster was unique at the date of its occurrence, and the horror of it shook the civilized world. I can see her now, slowly keeling to starboard, the avalanche of men skidding down the sleepily canted deck into the sea; the dense volume of smoke from her funnels pouring along the surface of the water as the great ship lay on her beam ends; now the whole length of her keel as she completely capsizes; then, last of all, the twin screws still revolving as she makes her final plunge.

I see it all again - the sea dotted with the heads of swimmers, wreckage shooting to the surface from a great depth, maiming and killing many, the rush of boats - wisely delayed by the admiral's last order, the little group of dazed survivors on the deck of each ship. And, above all, the magnificent calmness of the Navy in the hour of disaster. For, the rescuing boats once more secured at the davits, the dead admiral's flag was hoisted in the Camperdown, the rear-admiral assumed command, the straggled fleet once more became two ordered lines, eight bells were struck, the bugles sounded off "evening quarters", and we all fell in at the guns in accordance with daily routine. Nothing remotely suggested that we had just witnessed the greatest naval disaster in the experience of the oldest of us, save perhaps, a forlorn little heap of wreckage on each quarter-deck under the charge of a sentry. That is the Royal Navy.

A curious fact in connection with the disaster is that the whole thing was accurately foretold a week earlier by a fakir in Tripoli. It is well known that every village on Lebanon was on the look-out that day from earliest dawn for the "grievous calamity with which Allah was about to visit the Christian dogs in the warships". I think, as the jargon goes, the holy man must have had "a good Press" that week.

USELESS!

In the course of the next three years in England I was seized with a sudden and unaccountable zeal to specialize in some branch of my profession. I selected military surveying, and went through a course of instruction in that subject under the Royal Engineers at Chatham. I now see that, in view of my life-long inability to add up a column of figures and get the same result twice, it was rash to dabble with so treacherous a science as trigonometry. Anyhow, out of a class of about 50, a young Guardsman and I alone achieved the distinction of being spun.

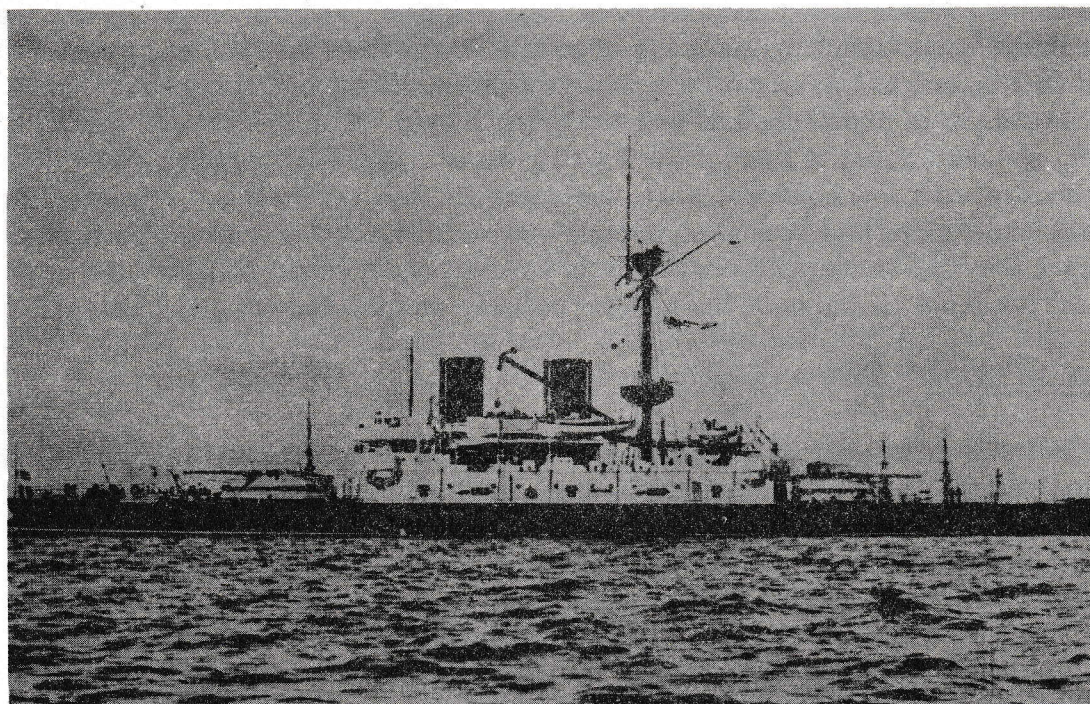
Shortly afterwards, having called to pay my respects to my instructor's wife before leaving Chatham, I spent the few minutes before her arrival in the drawing-room in inspecting a long framed panel of miniature water-sketches, which stretched the entire length of the wall above the mantel piece. They were labelled in succession: "The Oldest Inhabitant", "The Belle of the Village", "The Vicar", and so on, and a vague sense of familiarity was beginning to steal upon me, when my host entered the room.

"So you've bowled me out!" he laughed. "Well, I admit it was a rotten thing to dish you in the exam and then pinch all those drawings. I cut them off the margins of your surveys, as you've discovered. You know, your work, artistically speaking is admirable: from the military point of view" - here he looked out of the window - "worse than useless".

HMS ROYAL ARTHUR

My next ship was the Royal Arthur, in which I went to Australia. I think it must have been very nearly a record voyage. For, although it takes six weeks to accomplish, and its 10,000 mile course traverses such widely-different seas as the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Red Sea, Indian and Southern Oceans, it is no exaggeration to say that, as far as the weather was concerned, we might have been towed quite comfortably the entire distance from Portsmouth to Sydney. We paid for it on the voyage home, Heaven knows! But on the outward trip, at least, Father Neptune proved himself the gentleman he is at heart beneath his sometimes rough exterior. He came on board, of course, each time we crossed the Line - but, as I had already been baptised a son of his on the previous voyage home from China, I escaped that very strenuous christening ceremony in the Royal Arthur. Yet not without some difficulty. For, since the direct route to China does not cross the Equator, Neptune's clerks challenged my claim to exemption. A reference to the records in the ship's office, however, proved that I had not only crossed the Line, but had crossed it twenty times at least. The explanation is that the Constance had been driven 400 miles south of her course by the violence of the monsoon that she had crossed the Indian Ocean upon the Line itself; and that for some days we were beating under sail, a zigzag method of progression which brought us now on one side of it, and now on the other.

SECOND JUBILEE REVIEW



HMS CAMPERDOWN (1885-1911)

We reached Spithead in time to take part in Queen Victoria's second Jubilee Review (as I have mentioned, I was also present at the first), and shortly afterwards I found myself back again in the Mediterranean, this time in the notorious Camperdown. While serving in her I visited Cairo, travelled the whole length of Palestine from Nazareth to Jericho, bathed in the Dead Sea, swam across the Jordan, and even managed to get up to Damascus and smoke a cigarette in the "street which is called Strait". But the outstanding event of the commission was the rising in Crete in September 1883.

CRETE

As I have fully described it - to my cost as you shall hear - in one of my books, "The Shadow on the Quarterdeck", and as the plot of my comedy, "The Flag Lieutenant", is largely concerned with it, I shall touch on it very briefly here.

Incensed by the collection of an unpopular tax, the Moslems of Candia, the chief town of the island, suddenly rose, massacred most of the Christians, set fire to the town, attacked the small British garrison, killed and wounded a large number, and cornered the remainder on the top of the city wall. To reinforce the latter in their precarious position I was landed in command of a hundred Marines. A furious sea, which wrecked the first boat, was breaking on the coast and we had to swim ashore through the surf, encumbered with our arms and accoutrements, as best we might. Luckily no one was either drowned by the sea or shot by the Bashi-Bazouks, and we masqueraded during the remainder of the day in the trews and tartans of a distinguished Highland regiment, while our own sea-sodden garments were spread upon the battlements to dry.

In the absence on board the Camperdown of the Colonel-Commanding - who had watched us land, yet reported that the heavy sea prevented him from regaining his camp - I barricaded and entrenched the position: and for a hectic week we lay out in the open, awaiting the issue of events. Why the Bashis never pushed us off the wall no one has ever yet been able to understand. They could have done it by sheer weight of numbers, and without firing a shot. For there were 10,000 of them at least, most of them armed with guns of a sort and ten-inch knives, whereas we numbered a few hundreds only, including British, French and Italians. However, the truculent Faithful contented themselves with occasionally sniping us; and before they had made up their minds to have a try for goal, ships and troops began to arrive from all parts of the Mediterranean, and the opportunity passed.

EXECUTIONS

I was subsequently attached, as interpreter in Italian, to the international court-martial which tried the assassins, and I witnessed the executions which followed. It was a sombre scene I shall not easily forget. The condemned men were hanged in batches on the wall at dawn, and the gorgeous sky, the prevailing hush, broken only by the distant wailing of Turkish women in the city and by the nearer sobbing of the sea, live poignantly in the memory. The long-drawn note of a British bugle sounding "Out lights!" cut the silence like a knife: it was the last earthly sound some ten or a dozen picturesque sinners heard before they dropped into eternity.

The lack of vigour shown by the officers of the British regiment attacked was severely criticized by those who knew the truth, and the truth peeped out, too clearly to please the War-office, in a story I wrote soon afterwards, called "What Hassan saw from the Minaret". *Litera scripta manet*! As a result, though many others - including even my own non-commissioned officers - were rewarded, my share in the scrimmage, for what it was worth, went unrecognized for more than 20 years. It was not until after the Armistice that I was awarded a military honour, ostensibly for special services during the Great War, but actually (so the official letter runs) for those performed in Crete in 1898.

INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

On my return to England I was appointed a member of the Naval Intelligence Department at the Admiralty, I had more than one interesting adventure while serving in the Intelligence Department. But although twenty years have elapsed, although France, our Ally of to-day, was the Power we were then furtively watching, although it is all ancient history, the methods of the Secret Service are much the same to-day as they were in 1901, and I should not be justified in revealing them.

(Concluded on page 17 of Vol III No 3)

NEW MEMBERS

The following applications for membership have been approved:

Major General H. D. Fellowes, CB, DSO, RM

Captain H. A. Good, RM

Major H. N. Cooper, RM

Mr. C. B. Smith

Lt. A. S. J. Baines, RM

Lt. E. M. White, RM

Mr. J. Brewin

(A. L. B.)

CORPS MUSEUM NOTES

BY

THE CURATOR

Undoubtedly the most important acquisition over the past few months has been the Victoria Cross and other medals of Brigadier General F.W. Lumsden. This is a unique group including as it does a DSO and 3 bars, of which only 18 have ever been awarded with this number of bars, a CB and a Belgian Croix de Guerre. He was also mentioned in despatches 4 times. Unfortunately the Museum had to pay nearly £5000 for the group, but to the Corps their value is beyond price.

Other acquisitions during the period have included:

- a. An officer's shako plate of 1844-55. This is an extremely important acquisition and one which we have been endeavouring to obtain for a number of years. It was purchased at auction for £50.
- b. The Kava Bowl presented to HQ 3 Commando Brigade Band in October 1970 by the people of LAUTOKA, Fiji as a token of appreciation. This will be a very useful addition to the RMSM section when it is established in the new setting and I hope it will be the forerunner of many more RMSM exhibits.
- c. The Admin plan for the D-Day landings by 45 Commando, together with a battle map used during the battle of Montfortebeek.
- d. The original sketch made by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh when he suggested to CGRM that the Portsmouth Band should have a special badge to commemorate the Royal tour in SS Gothic in 1953-4.
- e. A number of items relating to operations in N Ireland. These were given by 45 Commando but for political reasons will not be displayed until after the current emergency has ended.
- f. The original wash drawing by Harry Payne of Lt Harry Hunt RM at Cassis 8 August 1813. This is illustrated in Britain's Sea Soldiers Volume I page 276. It was purchased from Parker Galleries for £21.
- g. A German Zeiss stereoscope captured during the Battle of Messines Ridge 7 June 1917.
- h. Miscellaneous books and documents relating to the attack on Zeebrugge 1918, given by General Lamplough.
- j. An original copy of The Times dated 3 October 1798 with the account of The Battle of The Nile.
- k. A tunic of a bandmaster of the Royal Naval School of Music pre 1939, purchased for £9.

1. A large number of medals including the MBE and BEM of RSM Burnett MM of Private M.B. Wilkinson RMLI (Miraumont 1917), CB and DSO of Lt Gen A.L. Forster, MSM of Private W. Woolstenholmes RMLI, the OBE and MC (Bazentin) of Captain A.E. Rann RMA, the DSM (Jutland) of Bombardier John Mulraney, and the Albert Medal of Group Captain Day, who was awarded his medal whilst serving in the Corps, and which has now been replaced by the George Cross.

We have also received the remaining five composite paintings by Charles Stadden, making eight in all. Each painting depicts 14 different uniforms and the series covers the period 1664-1972. This is a unique record of dress throughout the ages and it is hoped to produce the series as prints or postcards at a later date. Whilst on the subject of postcards the well known twelve "Stadden" prints are being produced as a Post Card series and should be available shortly. Two of these are being prepared as Christmas Cards for sale this year.

Plans for the redeployment of the Museum are now in the final stages and I hope to be able to give a full report in the next newsletter. In the meantime we are launching an Appeal to the Corps to raise the necessary capital to establish the Museum in the Officers' Mess at Eastney. This covers the costs of display cases, lighting, graphics, diaramas etc to a very high professional standard. The result will be a Corps Museum which is one of the finest in the Country. Can you please help towards the £35000 we require?

(A.G.B.)

COUNCIL NOTES

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society took place at Portsmouth on the 6th May 1972. Draft Minutes of this Meeting are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Advertising

Your Council has considered the subject of small personal advertisements in Newsletters and have agreed that these will be accepted for printing at a charge of 25p for a reasonable sized advertisement. Members should submit copy of their advertisement together with their remittance to the Hon Treasurer.

Society's Tie

A Separate letter has been sent out to all members informing them that the tie is being manufactured. If you have not received this letter please inform the Assistant Secretary. Please send in your order with your remittance as soon as possible to the Treasurer. Our funds are small and we will have a large bill to settle.

LETTERS

From: The Corps Historian

NAVAL GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL (1793-1840)

A query recently raised by a Naval Officer concerning this medal may be of interest to members.

The correspondent described two medals issued to DENNIS SULLIVAN and stated "There are two medals to this man—one a single bar specimen (Boat Service 1 November 1809) and in the roll I have seen he is stated to be an Ord Sea. This medal was in the Whalley collection 1875; Gibson 1885; Needus 1940 and Phillips 1965. The second medal is a three bar specimen (Boat Service 1 November 1809: Lissa; Pelagosa 29 November 1811) which appeared in Glendinnings sale in 1902, in Sir G.D. White's collection in 1946 (where he was described as OS and Marine (apparently without comment)). On page 89 of his book 'Collecting Medals and Decorations' Alec Purves states that "the single bar specimen is suspect but I feel that the fact that it has been in well known collections over a period of some years tends to refute his doubts".

I would be interested in any comments our Medal collector members may make and suggest they be addressed to the Editor for publication.

From: A.J. Perrett

CAPTAIN E.A.M. LIARDET RMLI

I would like to explain in some detail the nature of the donation attributed to me in the last edition of the Newsletter, firstly because I merely passed on somebody else's money and secondly I feel the facts may interest the Society readers.

In an article entitled 'Remember Shimonoseki' of the April 'Globe and Laurel' magazine you will find reference to a Captain Liardet RMLI in the opening paragraph. When I discovered this grave at Kobe in Japan and gave details to the Corps Historian he showed me a file in the archives which revealed many facts, including the cause of his death which was yellow fever, but nothing was known of the location of the grave.

In actual fact this was originally sited on the waterfront of Kobe harbour, but as the town expanded it was moved, with all those of other foreigners, to a special wooded parkland area on a hill at Futatabi, about four miles outside the port.

A surviving grand-daughter of Liardet, Mrs B. Wogan of Cheltenham was most interested to learn all the relevant details, which were entirely unknown to her, and to receive photographs etc, and to express her appreciation forwarded a cheque to me to be used as I saw fit. It seemed to me that the Society funds were the most appropriate in this instance.

To quote from the archive file, Captain Edward Aylmer Montagu LIARDET, the son of Col C. F. Liardet of the Indian Army, was born at Vizagapatam, India, on 3rd September 1847.



He became a 2nd Lieutenant in the RMLI on 13th December 1865, and was appointed to Plymouth Division. Promoted to Lieutenant on 3rd August 1867, he obtained his Captaincy on 4th October 1880. On board HM Ships, 'PALLAS', 'AUDACIOUS' and 'VANGUARD' he served in Ireland on coastguard duties from January 1870 to September 1872, then joined HMS 'SWIFTSURE' in the Mediterranean until October 1878.

Posted again to Ireland in August 1880, this time ashore with a Battalion, he rejoined his old ship 'AUDACIOUS' during September 1882 and sailed to the Far East to be based at Hong Kong aged 38, the fever finally overcame him on 27th August 1885, presumably whilst at sea in the Kobe area.

From: Captain J.A. Good RM

LCG(M)s

May I take Harry Playford to task on his article in Newsletter Vol III No 2? It contains several mistakes that I really cannot let pass without comment:

- a. Page 20 last para No LCG(L) was ever armed with a 25 pr, unless it was a field piece lashed down. G(L)s had 4" and 4.7" naval guns.
- b. Some LCG(M)s were armed with 17 pdrs, not all, as implied.
- c. G(M)s had turrets, not gunhouses. I understand a gunhouse to be an armoured shield open at the rear.
- d. No LCG(M) took part in the Normandy landings - Imperial War Museum please note!
- e. Page 21 para 1. I can find no reference either in 'Janes' or 'Warships of World War II' by Lenton and Colledge, nor do I ever remember seeing a "purpose built" LCF or LCG(L). They were ALL adapted from LCT 2, 3 or 4. The purpose built rocket craft were designed and planned, only the prototype was completed.

(Editor's Note: John Good, who has recently joined the Society, has sent a Technical Description and Personal Account of Training on LCG(M)s. I hope to publish an edited version of this in a future Newsletter.)

From: John Bailey

CLOTH INSIGNIA

Readers of "Newsletter" may be interested in the unusual form of the 44 RM Commando title shown in the photograph below.



During a recent documentary film on Anglia TV concerning the Induction of the present Bishop of Norwich (Bishop Maurice Wood DSC MA), some still photographs were shown of Bishop Maurice as a WW2 Chaplain.

I wrote to My Lord Bishop on the subject of the insignia and he kindly lent me the original photograph to copy. He informed me that he had the titles 'made-up' in Poona, during his period of service with 44 RM Commando. He later served with 48 RM Commando in NW Europe.

